THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

A Meeting of the

COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY
BUILDING PLANS

HELD AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

December 2 & 3, 1949

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LIBRARY OF PRINCETON
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P R E F A C E

This report has been edited from notes taken by Miss Mary J. Loughin of the University of Michigan Library. In the interests of economy, the presentations and criticisms of the plans have been condensed, but it is believed that no important material has been omitted. The various parts of the report have been edited and corrected by the respective speakers, and are presented here with only minor editorial changes.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Loughin for her very able assistance in recording and preparing the text of this report.

Stephen A. McCarthy
Secretary

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ATTENDANCE ROSTER

William N. Alderman	Architect Chicago, Ill. (Chicago)
Harry R. Allen	York & Sawyer Architects New York (Rutgers)
Joseph F. Booton	Architect Chicago, Ill. (Southern Illinois)
Harlan C. Brown	Librarian North Carolina State College
Julian P. Boyd	Librarian Princeton University
D. F. Cameron	Librarian Rutgers University
Dorothy Crosland	Librarian Georgia Institute of Technology
Charles W. David	Director of Libraries University of Pennsylvania
Mary K. Dempsey	Librarian Marquette University
Herman H. Fussler	Director University of Chicago Library
Ivan G. Grimshaw	Librarian Youngstown College
Mason W. Gross	Provost Rutgers University
George L. Horner	Supervising Architect State University of Iowa
Roy O. Kallenberger	Architect Marquette University
Louis Kaplan	Associate Librarian University of Wisconsin
Roger C. Kirchhoff	Architect Madison, Wisconsin (Wisconsin)

Florence L. King	Librarian Wellesley College
S. A. McCarthy	Director Cornell University Library
Earl N. Manchester	Director Ohio State University Library
Keyes D. Metcalf	Director Harvard University Library
Mary Elizabeth Miller	Librarian Goucher College
Frank Montana	Architect Detroit, Mich. (Wayne)
Robert H. Muller	Librarian Southern Illinois University
Arthur Neef	Chairman, Building Committee Wayne University
Richard Pennington	Librarian McGill University
Suren Pilafian	Architect Detroit, Mich. (Wayne)
G. Flint Purdy	Librarian Wayne University
Warner G. Rice	Director of Libraries University of Michigan
A. L. Robinson	Librarian University of Pittsburgh
Howard Rovelstad	Librarian University of Maryland
Byron Soule	University of Michigan
Jackson E. Towne	Librarian Michigan State College
Cyril A. Wilson	Faculty Member Rutgers University

FIRST SESSION, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 2, 1949, EAST LECTURE ROOM, RACKHAM BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Mr. Ralph E. Ellsworth, Director of Libraries, State University of Iowa, presiding.

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. For the benefit of those who were attending for the first time he explained the history of the Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans. This organization, started in the winter of 1944 by a score of university librarians under the leadership of Julian Boyd, Charles David, and others, had as its purpose the planning of library buildings so as to make them as useful as possible and to eliminate waste. The first meetings were very helpful, in that all knew each other personally and were not afraid to criticize one another's plans.

Since these early years several of the major buildings planned have been erected and the directors of those libraries have lost interest in the organization because their need has lessened. They have also found that their buildings are not so good as they had hoped. A few members of the original group are still attending, but now other librarians who have plans under way are coming to the meetings to have their plans criticized, and the Committee wishes to help them.

Mr. Ellsworth reminded the group that its chief value lay in full and frank criticism of the plans presented and stated that each member had an obligation to express his views and opinions of the other members' plans in return for the benefit he received from the criticism of his own plans by other members of the group. He explained the new procedure which was to be tried at this meeting, saying that a critic had been appointed to start the discussion of the plans as presented. In each case the critic had had an opportunity to study the plans for a few days before the meeting, so that after the librarian and architects had presented their case to the group the critic would indicate what he felt to be the most important advantages and disadvantages of the proposed arrangement and the other members of the group would then add their comments. This method should help to eliminate snap judgments which might be made if all members of the group were seeing the plans for the first time.

The first library to be discussed was that of Wayne University. Plans for a proposed Kresge-Hooker Science Library, and sketches for a new General Library, were presented by Mr. G.

Flint Purdy, Director, assisted by the Provost, Mr. Arthur Neef, and the architects, Messrs. Suren Pilafian and Frank Montana.

MR. G. FLINT PURDY: Mr. Purdy stated that Wayne is a young university whose growth has been rapid and somewhat haphazard. It has expanded from a Central High School to a Junior College and then to a four-year Liberal Arts College, gathering in various professional schools on the way, so that now it has twelve colleges and schools. Maximum full time enrollment is expected to approximate 12,000. The governing body is the Board of Education of the City of Detroit. In view of the rapidly changing conditions affecting the University program, Wayne is trying to plan as flexibly as possible, in the hope that whatever construction is undertaken at present will prove adaptable to future needs for at least twenty or twenty-five years.

The University has recently embarked upon a general building program for the development of the campus, and in April of this year the Common Council of the City of Detroit approved a supplementary tax levy which will provide $10,000,000 for the University over a five-year period. The present campus, located in the center of the city, is to be enlarged to about 100 acres. The policy of the administration is to keep the University in the center of the city, on the theory that it is accessible to more people there. The proximity of the University to the Detroit Public Library influences the book-buying policy of both institutions to a considerable extent, since they are able to cooperate in the purchase of research materials, thus avoiding expensive duplication. Except for the College of Medicine, which has its own library about 2 1/2 miles from the main campus, and the Law School, the School of Public Affairs, and the School of Nursing, which have separate libraries on the campus, the collections of Wayne University Library are housed in the old Central High School Building - in the auditorium, the cafeteria, the corridors, etc. The crowding has reached such proportions that some relief is imperative, and by last spring, when it became evident that $3,000,000 would be available for a general University Library building, the decision had been reached that, in view of the small size of the campus, a centralized pattern of library service would be of maximum economy. On the basis of an estimated full time day enrollment of 12,000, plans were made to provide seats for 3,000 students in the general library building, dividing them among four broad subject divisions - humanities, social sciences, education, and natural sciences - with further subdivision by level of students served. Within each division there were to be three major subdivisions of space - an area devoted to curricular service, an area for research service and storage of research materials, and a third (core) area which would include a reference and circulation service for the subject division and also stairways, elevators, book-carriers, pneumatic tubes, small conference rooms,

typing space, the bulk of the current periodicals collection, listening spaces, an open-shelf collection of reserve and non-reserve books, and smoking areas accessible to both faculty and students.

During the summer the Kresge Foundation voted $1,000,000 for a Kresge Science Building to house the Kresge-Hooker Science Library, which is in effect the entire science and technology library of Wayne University (with the exception of the Medical Library). Since that money is to be available immediately, the architects have turned their attention to planning a science library. They have tried to design a building which will serve efficiently as a library and will also satisfy the donors from the point of view of appearance. The result has been a compromise, and the plans shown are architect's sketches rather than final blueprints.

The scientists would prefer to have the major collections in their fields close to their laboratories, but they are resigned to the policy of centralization as a necessary expedient under the circumstances, realizing that in view of the inadequate state of the book collections at present it is necessary to devote as large a proportion of the financial resources as possible to the development of the collections and as little as possible to administration and duplication of services. They will, of course, have laboratory collections in the laboratory buildings, and each department will be permitted to spend any reasonable part of its allocation for materials which will be charged more or less permanently to the laboratory collection.

The first floor of the proposed Kresge-Hooker Library is expected to take care of the service to undergraduate students. It will also house the Off-Campus Service Unit, which serves the Friends of the Kresge-Hooker Library, an organization numbering several hundreds. The off-campus service program is mainly a translation and photographic service. This unit is designed to house that service, with a reception room, a workroom, and a battery of offices. Also included is a lecture room or auditorium intended primarily to provide space for a series of lectures on the frontiers of chemistry which is sponsored by the Chemistry Department and the Library. There are to be four student cooperative study rooms, stack space (largely on the second and third floors) for about 200,000 volumes, two seminar rooms on each of these floors, and a smoking room. The question of carrells has not yet been decided. The building will be air-conditioned.

The University is going to experiment with completely open stacks, although it may be necessary to restrict the use of the second and third floors to graduate students. The third floor is almost exactly like the second. There will be two controlled exits from the building, and a service entrance. There will be

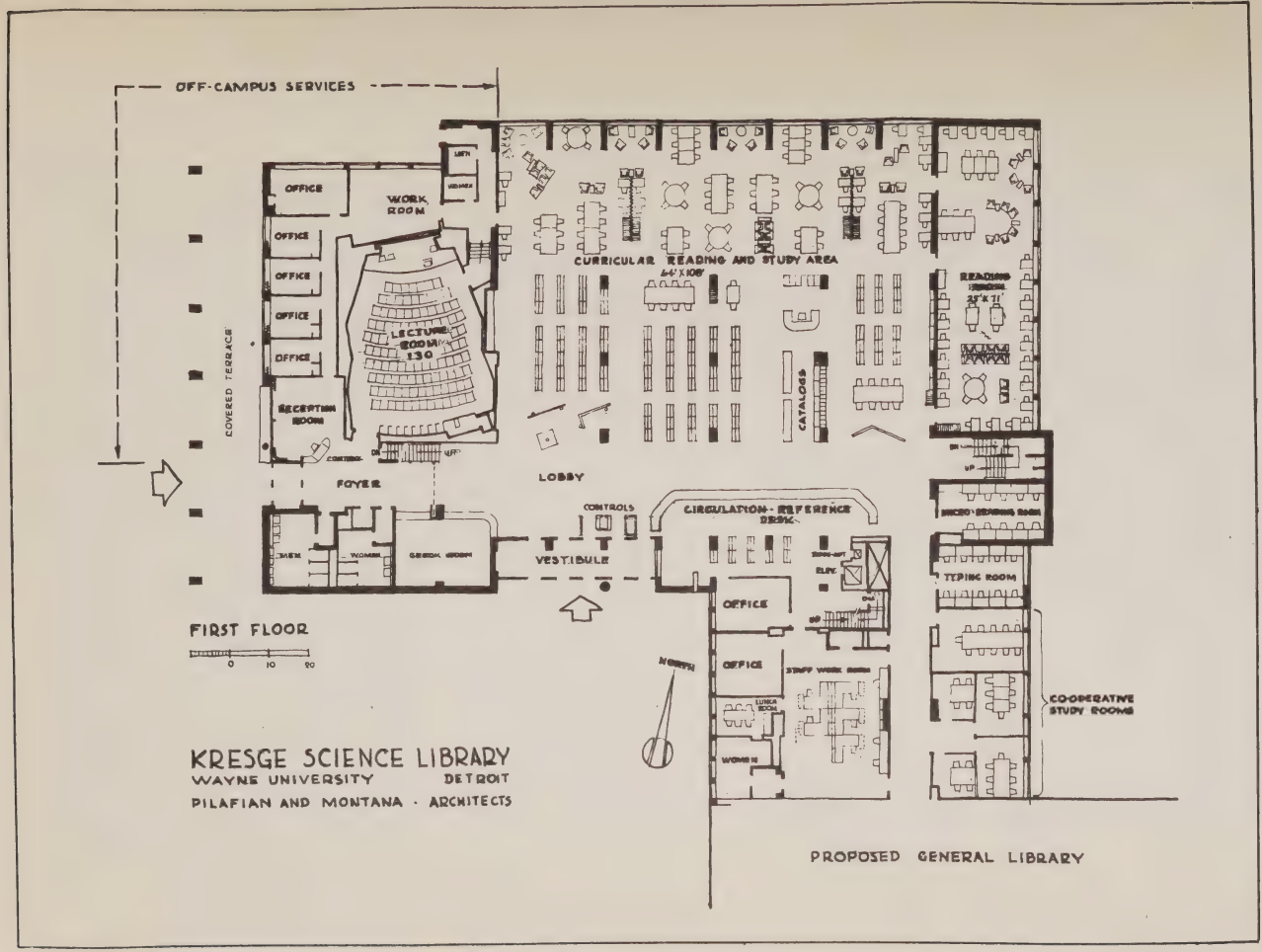


FIGURE 1

WAYNE UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE LIBRARY PLANS

MAIN FLOOR

provision for 300 readers on the first floor, about 100 on the second floor, and the same number on the third. It is planned that when the collection reaches 200,000 volumes there will still be seats for 500 students. When the space requirements go beyond that figure it will probably be necessary to house the undergraduate division elsewhere, and it is likely that there will be some departmental libraries also.

The front, or south, elevation gives the impression of being largely composed of glass, but the architects have planned this section with a 2 1/2' overhang at the head of each window, which will provide shelter from the sun and will permit the cleaning of the windows much more easily than by putting up ladders from the ground below. The windows on this side are small and are not intended to provide light for study within the building; their chief purpose is to give the people inside a chance to look out. There should not be much trouble from snow-reflected glare during the winter, since the number of days of sunshine in Detroit at that season is negligible and also since the snow in Detroit does not remain white long enough to cause much glare. The ceilings in this area are 8 1/2'.

The north elevation shows the main reading area, 100' x 60'. It will have a 12' ceiling. The windows on the west side have been designed with vertical shells as an expedient to take care of the western exposure. Most of the glare will be eliminated by this means.

In the discussion, led by Mr. Stephen McCarthy, that followed the presentation of the plans the point was made that some of the thinking of the Committee is reflected in the sketches, and that the plans do bring readers and books together. The question was raised as to whether in a science library as much seating space would normally be needed as is provided in this building. Scientists do not normally come to a library to spend a good deal of time there, but rather to look up specific data or to consult certain periodicals. Also, since a scientist would have to leave the science building to come to the library to consult the library materials, especially the bound files of journals, it might be more advantageous to put the research material on the first floor and the undergraduate material on the second and third floors. The problem of noise caused by undergraduates could be largely eliminated by acoustical treatment.

The comment was made that the area near the circulation desk on the first floor might become a sort of highway used by people coming from the north part of the campus on their way to the General Library, so that the space would be unsuitable for reading or study. The combination of reference and circulation

at that point would be very difficult even in light hours, because of the noise and confusion of traffic and because of the danger of loss of periodicals while the attendant is looking up material in the reference collection.

The question was raised as to whether satisfactory reference work could be done with the proposed author catalog and shelf list, or whether it would be more desirable to have a full dictionary catalog with author, title, and subjects in close proximity to the collection.

The architects' first preliminary sketches for the General Library were next shown. One set of sketches envisaged a library consisting of four floors above ground and a basement or partial basement. The other set proposed a six-story building including a basement and five floors above ground. In the first set of sketches the first floor plan shows a general circulation desk, the library work rooms, the accessions division, staff lounge, catalog, general bibliography and reference collection and study halls on one floor, but there was some thought of putting the study halls in the basement in order to make more room available on the first floor for other purposes. Three entrances are proposed - one from the south, one from the east, and one from the Kresge Library.

In presenting the humanities divisional area Mr. Purdy commented that (1) the circulation desk and the core area are poorly located with reference to the stacks; (2) the assignment of window space has been made on the basis of a priority scheme which allows a disproportionate amount of space for faculty studies.

In the second set of sketches the first floor is devoted to general circulation, catalog, bibliography division, catalog preparations, processing, staff lounge, checking facilities, toilet facilities, etc. In this plan each of the three major divisions is divided between two floors.

In inviting comments as to the relative merits of the two plans Mr. Purdy asked whether the divisional organization seems applicable to Wayne; if so, whether it seems desirable that each division should be on a floor or whether there is any objection to having a division split between floors; whether a subdivision within a division seems a good thing under the circumstances; and whether the core area seems suitable. Comments were that with a divisional arrangement a considerable amount of duplication of material is necessary; that there would be a good deal of running up and down stairs if the divisions were split between floors; that it is desirable, if possible, to have the reference material together and the periodicals together. The question was also raised as to whether the other three divisions might not be handled by

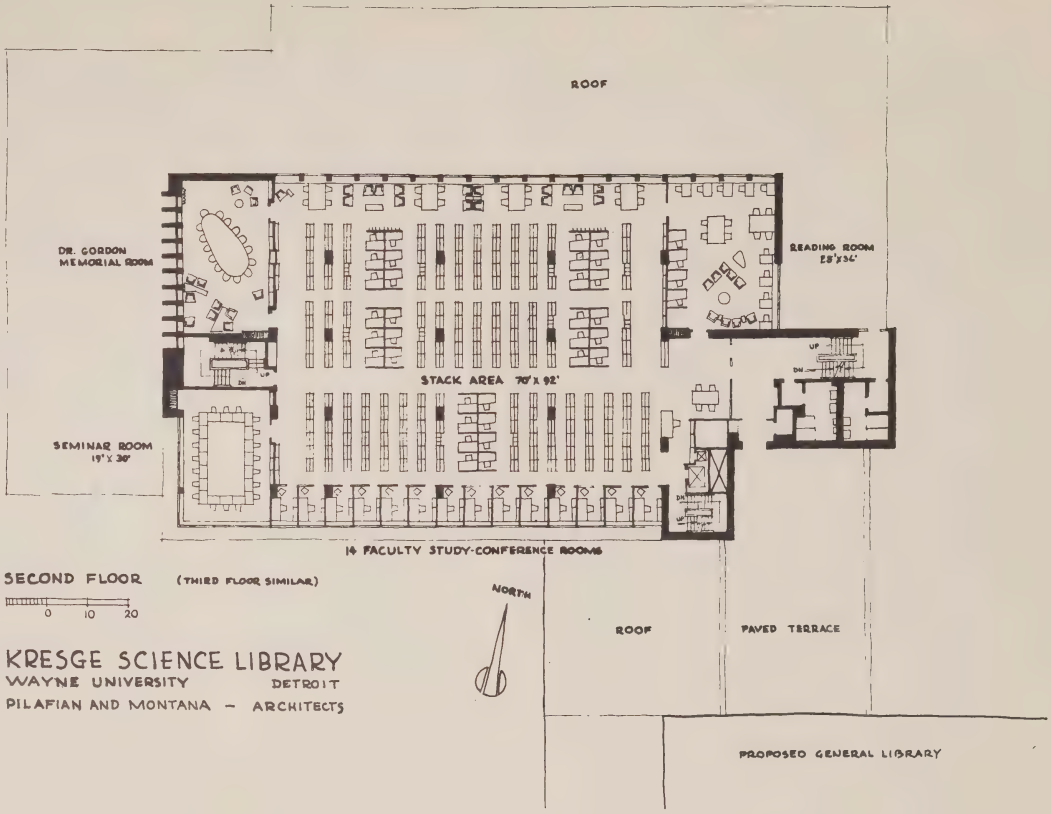


FIGURE 2

WAYNE UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE LIBRARY PLANS

SECOND FLOOR

making three separate libraries, on the order of the Kresge Library, so that there would be a library on each of the four corners of a fairly large square, connecting them in the center by four necks and thereby getting some centralized service at the place where they come together. The opinion was expressed that such an arrangement would be wasteful from the point of view of service.

(Luncheon recess)

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH introduced Mr. Julian Boyd and asked him to report on the advantages and disadvantages of the Princeton library as viewed in the light of experience.

MR. JULIAN BOYD: Mr. Boyd stated that the arrangement, which attempts to carry out the old humanistic library concept of a harmonious relationship of books, students, and teachers, has worked extremely well. The library is open from eight in the morning until midnight and has an average daily attendance of about three thousand persons. This is a very large number in view of the fact that all of the scientific libraries and one very large segment of humanistic studies are located elsewhere and draw off a good many potential users of the library. The library has proved such an attractive and comfortable place to work and to hold meetings that the students have transferred to the library many of the activities which were formerly carried on in the dormitories or elsewhere on the campus. This results in greatly increased costs of operation and maintenance.

The upkeep on the furniture has not been very noticeable yet. The students have treated the fabric and plastic covered furniture with great care and respect. When they want to lie down on a sofa they remove their shoes. The wood furniture has been somewhat more of a problem. About forty chairs have broken already. The kiln-dried wood does not have the life that naturally seasoned wood has, and the chairs have a tendency to fall to pieces when the students lean back in them. It is very important to check the details of construction of the furniture to make sure that it is strong enough to withstand student use.

No other item has caused so much difficulty as the carrells. The final cost greatly exceeded the original estimates, running about $1000 each instead of the $250 anticipated, making $500,000 for the 500 carrells. The demand for them greatly exceeds the supply, but a test check run recently showed that 75 per cent of them are vacant more than 50 per cent of the time. The senior carrells are practically all vacant now, but will be very busy in March and April. In the meantime the faculty and graduate students are annoyed because there are not enough carrells for them. The closed carrell is definitely not a success at Princeton. The idea of having open carrells or stalls and of assigning lockers with glass fronts which would accommodate books, papers and the like - perhaps some of them large enough to accommodate typewriters also - so that a student or faculty member could get his materials and take them to the nearest vacant carrell, seems much more attractive than the present arrangement.

Another disadvantage which Princeton is facing is the problem of the memorial rooms. Some of the people who have contributed money for these rooms expect to exercise a good deal of influence in the administration of them, the selection of furniture, draperies, etc., so that a great deal of diplomacy is sometimes needed in handling suggestions made by donors. It is also unfortunate to have some of the books segregated in rigid units in the memorial collections instead of all together in their normal arrangement. The furnishings in the memorial rooms are somewhat too luxurious by comparison with other parts of the building, but some donors had stipulated that the money which they gave was to be used for furnishing certain rooms, so there was no alternative. The arrangement of these collections in separate rooms also adds to the cost of upkeep since it necessitates increased personnel.

Mr. Boyd feels that putting the rare book collections on the first floor is justified from the point of view of accessibility. The rare book collections have great prestige value, and if they are conveniently located many more people will see them. There are more people stopping to look at the exhibits and rare books in a single day now than there were in several months in the old building. It is not particularly convenient to have the exhibition gallery in a main corridor, since continuous exhibits are almost a necessity and it is difficult to install an exhibit while the traffic moves to and fro.

The location of the reserve collection on the first floor is working out satisfactorily from the point of view of traffic, and the space allowed for the collection has proved adequate. The closed stacks behind the desk accommodate about 12,000 volumes and are filled to capacity. There are future plans for an open shelf collection in the reserve room, but it has not been started yet.

The entrance hall is too large and perhaps represents some waste of space. It is a great gathering place. There is much loud talking and gathering of little groups, especially in the evening, so that there is no opportunity for study or concentrated work. Perhaps part of the space will be taken up later by the catalogs as they expand.

The preparations department is none too large in size. The space allowed for expansion (approximately 50 per cent) is nearly filled up already. Further expansion can be provided by moving the Jefferson office elsewhere or by expanding onto the terrace so that the problem is not likely to become serious.

The use of wooden floors in the reading rooms and entrance halls has proved unsatisfactory because of the noise and because of the expense required in maintaining a good finish in the

most used areas. The outlay for floor wax and labor has been enormous and a rubber matting was finally put down at the south entrance because the traffic there was defeating all efforts to establish a surface. Wooden floors at the catalog have the additional drawback of causing excessive fatigue.

The book conveyor is not used much at present, mainly because most of the users of the library go directly to the stacks to get their books, and also because the switch to turn it on is not at the circulation desk where it ought to be but is up in the tower. Other switches in the building are badly placed also, and there is no single panel or main switch where all the lights in the building can be turned off. It takes one man one hour to turn off the lights.

It is very important to have the installation of electric wires checked carefully. Two of the four fires which have accurred at Princeton since the new building was occupied have been due to faulty installation. One of the short-circuits did not blow a fuse, and the resulting fire smoldered for four hours after the alarm signal went off before it was discovered. It seems to be customary for one crew to install the wires and another crew to attach the fixtures, and if the work is not carefully inspected there is great danger of short circuits.

Checking of fire extinguishers is equally important. When the library staff tried to put out one of the fires they had great difficulty finding extinguishers that would work.

The departmental seminars have worked out very successfully. The size (18' x 24') is satisfactory, though perhaps it might have been better to have made them of varying sizes. The conference rooms, which were planned with the idea of bringing students and faculty together to discuss and smoke, have been put by the students to an entirely different use. They are used mainly for study rooms. They are occasionally used for formal meetings of one department or another, but they are not used for talking. At almost any time of day the chairs are practically all occupied and the students are studying, so the rooms planned for conferences have developed into undergraduate reading rooms.

The faculty lounge is working out very well. A lunch room has been installed, and the room has become a sort of faculty club. It is a great advantage to the University and to the faculty, and it is a good place for the librarian to gather suggestions.

The staff lounge is also working out successfully and is developing into a sort of club for the staff. It is large and

adequately furnished, but does not give the impression of being too big since one area can be shut off from another if more than one meeting is to be held at the same time.

In some places space has not been used to the best advantage. The page stations are a little too large so that space has been wasted there. The tower, which most of the librarians did not want, is practically useless, as they expected it would be. The truck entrance is also much too large and represents too great a cost of space and money.

At this point it was decided that, in view of the number of presentations to be made and the small amount of time available, it would be wise to show the slides for the proposed libraries at McGill, Chicago, and Wisconsin in close succession, postponing the discussion until the evening session.

MR. RICHARD PENNINGTON: Mr. Pennington presented plans for the proposed Library for McGill University. The present enrollment at McGill is 8,000, but will probably drop to 5,000. On the basis of an estimated enrollment of 5,000, seating is being provided for 1,000 students, of which the main library is expected to provide 600. McGill is a small university, a private institution, and does not expect that its library will every exceed 1,000,000 volumes. The present building, highly romanesque in style, has to be retained because of local sentiment, and the only direction in which expansion is permitted to take place is to the south. It has accordingly been decided to use the old stack (about 50' x 150') for storage purposes only and to fill it solidly with books. This will take care of about 500,000 volumes; the new stack will hold about 500,000. There is no intention of expanding beyond this figure. The present reading room is to be retained as a non-library, ceremonial hall. The problem of planning the new building has been greatly complicated by this feature as well as by the restrictions as to the direction which future construction can take. (Mr. Pennington mentioned that the visit of Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Boyd had been a great help in planning, especially in helping to get rid of an enormous tower which the architect had planned.)

The interior arrangements of the building are simplified somewhat by the decision to eliminate many kinds of "non-essentials". There is to be no teaching in the building; and there will be no conference rooms, smoking rooms, or browsing rooms. There will be a few seminar rooms, put in, reluctantly, at the request of the professors. The new structure will take advantage of a natural slope of about 20 feet which will make it possible to have a large

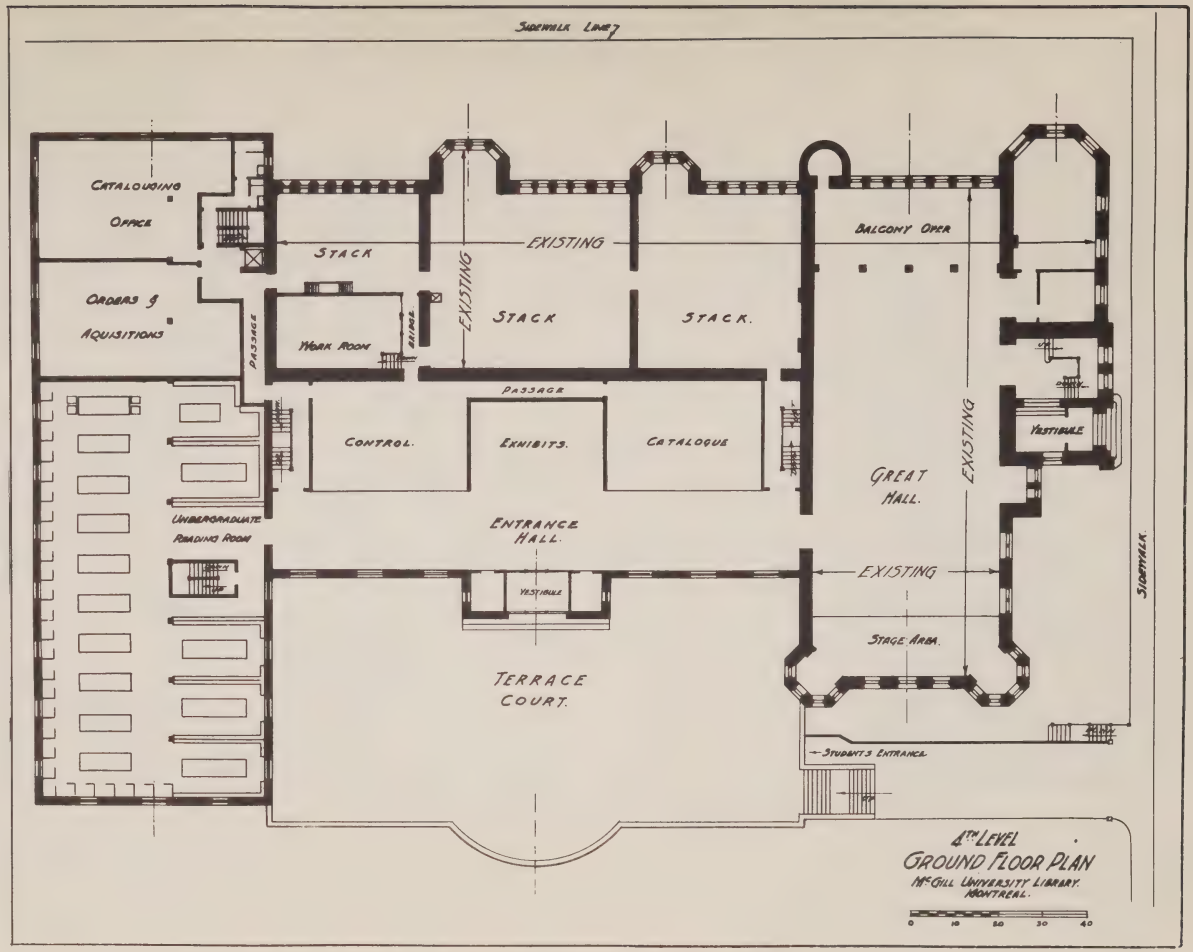


FIGURE 3

McGILL UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

GROUND FLOOR

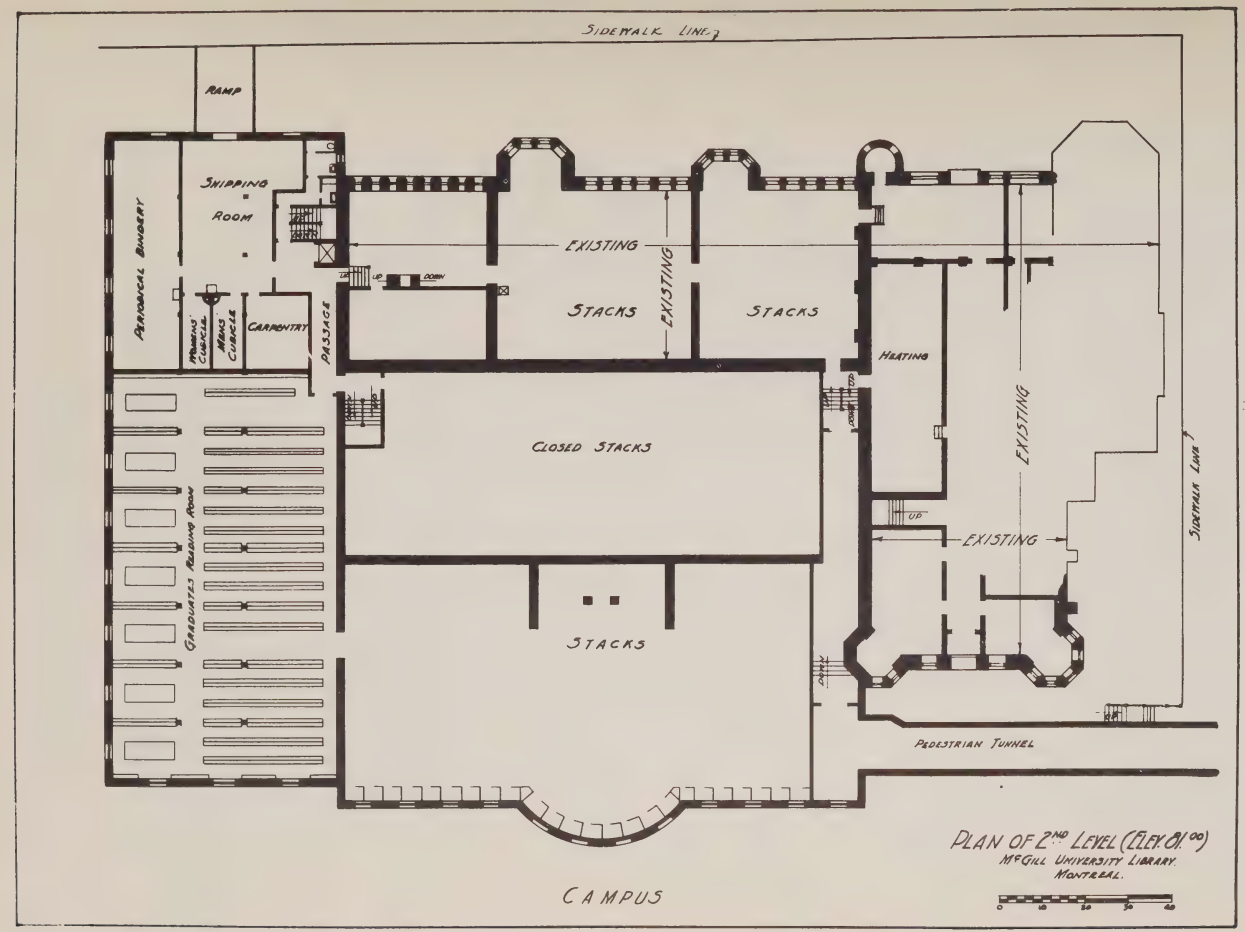


FIGURE 4

McGILL UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

SECOND LEVEL

amount of stack space without great expense of excavation. The building will contain three floors of stacks over the whole area, which will bring the resulting structure up to about half the height of the old building and will make it possible for students to enter the library from a court or terrace built over the stacks about half-way up the building as at Princeton. The western section is to be built up six or seven stories and will contain shipping and receiving rooms, booklift, space for accessions, cataloging, gifts, interlibrary loans, reference librarian, assistant librarian, etc. The two upper floors will house the seminars and the library school. The public catalog and the main desk will be in the central section facing the main entrance. There will be two main reading rooms and a periodical reading room. The two large reading rooms are chiefly for the undergraduates. They will contain a collection of 50,000 - 60,000 books. The undergraduates are to be turned loose in these two rooms and presumably will find there all the books they will ever need. Reserve books will be available in a few copies only. The exits will be controlled and books will not circulate from these rooms. If undergraduates wish to borrow books from the main stack they can borrow them at the desk.

Graduate students will have access to the stacks in both the old building and the new one. They will have work tables or open carrells in the stacks.

Mr. Pennington asked the advice of the group on several details of construction - Robertson flooring, acoustical treatment, humidifiers, and fluorescent lighting. He said that the three lower floors (stacks) are to be made of concrete because of its relative cheapness, but that the other floors will be of steel. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the Robertson special channel flooring, with conduits for the laying of cables, etc., has some advantages, but that the initial cost is enough higher than ordinary steel flooring to offset any normal expense of changing electrical installations at a later date. The main problem of Robertson flooring in connection with libraries is that it is not strong enough to carry the load which concentrated tiers of bookstacks put on it. It is being used to some extent at Iowa and in the Lamont Library at Harvard. The suggestion was made that electrical flexibility might be more conveniently and inexpensively obtained in the ceiling than in the floors. With regard to acoustic damping - whether a room might be too quiet and therefore conducive to slumber rather than study - the opinion was that it is possible to achieve any desired degree of acoustical correction and that a good deal of it is desirable even if readers do sometimes fall asleep. Mr. Pennington asked whether separate air-conditioning for the rare book room can be arranged and was assured that it is working out satisfactorily at Harvard, Princeton, and Columbia. In answer to his inquiry about the use of fluorescent

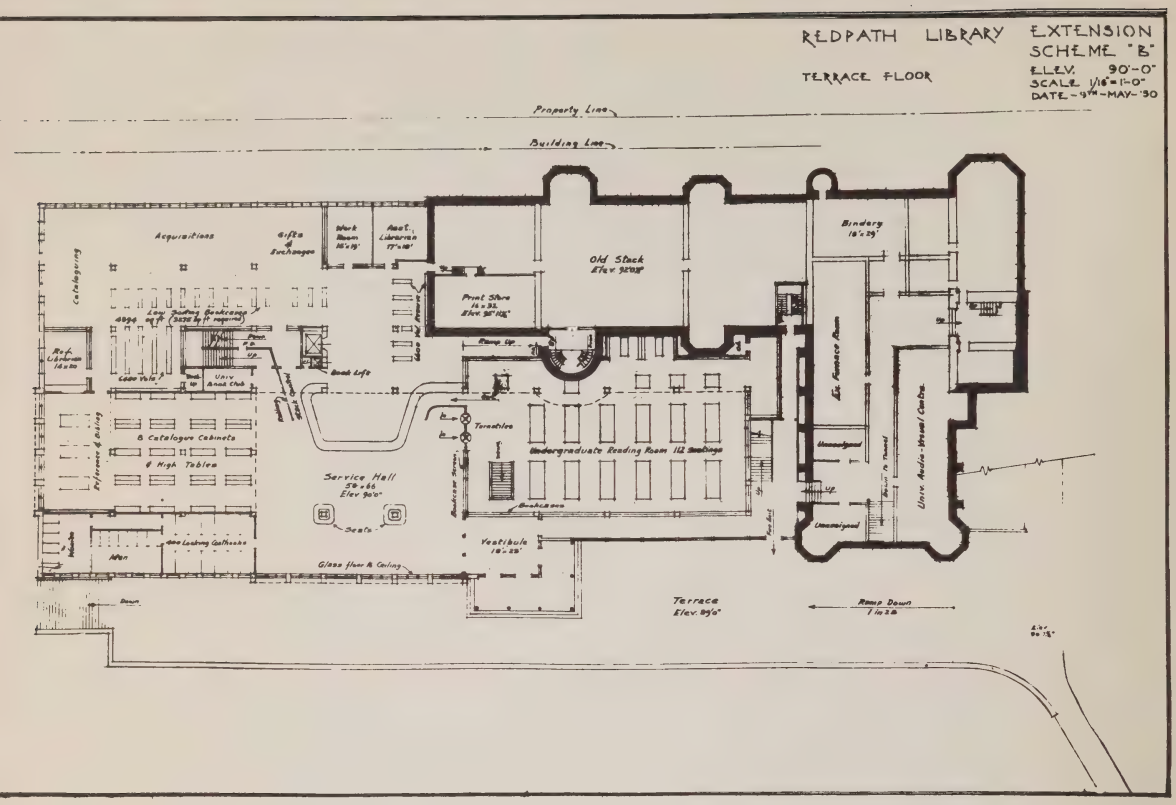


FIGURE 5

McGILL UNIVERSITY

REVISED LIBRARY PLANS

GROUND FLOOR (JUNE 1950)

table lights, Mr. Rice invited him to observe the installations in the Main Reading Room at the University of Michigan.

[Figure 5 represents a revision of the ground Floor Plan, made as a result of the discussion at the Michigan Conference. Concerning the revised plan, Mr. Pennington says: "The floor shown is the main floor; and the arrangement of the building is fairly simple: on the two floors below is the book stack, with a capacity for half a million and a large undergraduate reading library seating 280; above this floor are special collections with their respective reading rooms. The old stack remains as a reserve stack holding about 450,000 books."]

MR. CHARLES W. DAVID: Mr. David reported on the situation at the University of Pennsylvania. This is an urban institution with a current enrollment of between 17,000 and 18,000. About half are full-time students and the remainder, students who come mostly at night or in the late afternoon. The library, which will celebrate its 200th anniversary next year, now totals close to 1,200,000 volumes. The institution, as well as the community, is steeped in tradition, and new ideas develop slowly. The University has, however, finally made available $2,000,000 for the starting of a library building which will probably cost $5,000,000 or $6,000,000 when completed. Since the money has not been contributed by any foundation or wealthy benefactor, the librarian and architects appear to have a free hand to go ahead and plan a functional library without any pressure for memorial features or other similar disconcerting factors. If gifts are received later, it is hoped that by that time the pattern will be sufficiently well established so that it will not be necessary to modify it.

The $2,000,000 on hand makes no provision for furniture, but Mr. David feels that if he can get the building erected he will somehow manage to get it furnished. The formula given him by the administration is $1.25 per cubic foot. The University is located in a completely built up congested urban area. Fortunately an active city planning commission is cooperating closely with the University and some very far-reaching plans for the development of the University are under way. Woodland Avenue and some other streets are going to be blocked off so that the result will be a fairly rectangular campus with much less traffic noise than at present. The site of the library is to be moved from 34th Street where it now stands to the southeast corner of 36th and Walnut Streets. The present very preliminary sketch shows an L-shaped library extending down 36th Street in one direction and down Walnut Street in the other. It is possible that the final shape will be somewhat different, but at least there will not be the necessity of planning a library on the same site as the old library now

occupies. It was originally proposed to demolish the old building entirely, but the criticism of that destruction was so great that it has now been decided that the south end of the building shall be preserved as a storage stack for little used materials. This will provide space for over 500,000 volumes, so the new stack can be planned for a capacity of 2,000,000 volumes. (There is space nearby for future expansion).

The architects have been told that the library is primarily made up of four units:

1. service or information area
2. main reading area
3. processing area
4. stack or storage area

One of the features which Mr. David has tried to incorporate into the plan is a "Lamont", or undergraduate, Library within the larger research library. This will be about 25,000 square feet in area and will have low ceilings all the way through. It will stand beside or near a reference reading room which will have something of the more traditional study hall about it as it will extend to two floor levels, but it also will have a balcony and it is to be broken up into alcoves. The reserve books will be shelved in the undergraduate library. There will be no separate room for periodicals, as the periodicals are to be shelved very largely in their subject areas along with the monographs. Mr. David said he had some doubt in his mind as to the wisdom of trying to combine reference and study hall functions in a large main reading room. He wondered whether it might not be better to have a separate study hall and to concentrate the reference materials in a smaller area.

MR. HERMAN FUSSLER: Mr. Fussler and Mr. Alderman showed slides representing sketches of 3 floors of the proposed library building at the University of Chicago. The University has not yet commissioned an architect to design a library building, but it is soliciting money and has commissioned Mr. Alderman to work out some plans which are intended to show some of the concepts proposed for the new building.

The student body at Chicago totals 8,000 to 9,000 students on the campus; fewer than 3,000 of these students are undergraduates, so that between 5,000 and 6,000 are full-time students working toward professional or advanced degrees. The

library pattern is, accordingly, quite dominantly a research pattern. The collection at present numbers about 1,800,000 volumes. The administration of the library is centralized, including the medical and law libraries, but there is a great degree of decentralization of service. Book services are now given at 27 major points on the campus.

The University developed a divisional plan in the nineteen thirties. The four major divisions are the biological sciences, the physical sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences.

There is little or no correlation between the existing 27 service units and the present organizational, teaching, and research pattern of the University.

The proposed building might be said to have four essential and closely related objectives. It is intended to:

a. reduce or eliminate the many serious barriers between books in different parts of a subject classification that are the inevitable result of a system of close departmentalization;

b. provide the conditions that most persons find essential if they are to work efficiently with books--a reasonably quiet place, in close proximity to the books one is most apt to use, with access to a staff that can help when help is wanted, and with sufficient space to collect and to spread out books and papers in some privacy;

c. provide the conditions of light, space, equipment, air treatment and control necessary for the proper protection and preservation of the collections:

d. provide a high level of professional and clerical service for most, if not all, subject areas, with suitable space for efficient operations, at a cost approximately equal to that for a decentralized staff giving distinctly inferior service.

We would like to erect a building large enough to house a sufficiently large research and reference collection to serve the University more or less indefinitely. The difficulties of attaining this objective and defining the size are not minimized, but the rapid obsolescence and congestion of American university libraries require a solution other than accepting the prospect of infinite growth. For many materials less likely to be used, therefore, we will in the future transfer to, and rely on the holdings of, the Midwest Inter Library Center. Secondly, we expect the transfer of holdings from originals to microreproductions to continue, and finally we believe it is possible to acquire more material through photographic reproduction "on-demand" than we have in the past, and

this last activity should mean that we would need to acquire less peripheral and marginal material in "anticipation-of-demand".

The new library is intended to take the place of most, if not all, of the existing branch libraries. For the science departments especially it is expected that small reference-laboratory collections of duplicates will be created. There are certain obvious difficulties with these, but on the whole, we hope the solution will offer some relief to the present unsatisfactory conditions.

Thus the proposed library facilities might be somewhat as follows: (1) the new central research library, (2) a general--primarily college--library to be set up in the vacated Harper-Wieboldt reading rooms, (3) a departmental library of 5,000 to 10,000 volumes in current clinical medicine (to be duplicates in considerable measure), (4) possibly a separate law library, and (5) future expansion space and space for newspapers in the stack to be vacated beneath Harper, Wieboldt, and Classics buildings. The new central building is now thought of as housing 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 volumes and 2,000 to 2,500 readers. The proportion of carrells to reading room seats will be high.

The building shown, with 21' x 27' modules, now has a total of nine floors, the first two of which will house the main preparation and service areas (acquisition, cataloging, binding preparations, reference, reserve, photoduplication, etc.). There will be only two public entrances and exits to the building; both will be guarded. The main floor may have a ceiling height of 11' or 11 1/2'; the stack floors 8 1/2'.

There is to be a vertical column of articulation in the central core of the building. This core will contain stairways, elevators, toilets, book lifts, etc.

At the left of the main entrance is a general reference collection and reading room. On the right is the main circulation area, closely resembling the arrangement at Lamont. Directly behind the vertical core of communication are the public catalog, and an area for bibliography--national, general, and trade. The reserve reading load is substantial and it has been decided to concentrate the reserve reading service in one place in the interests of faster service to the students and less distraction to other readers. The reserve reading room is on the basement floor.

The present plans call for seven stack floors above the main floor, and these will be more or less alike, except that there will be only one reading room for a general subject area that may occupy two or three floors. The vertical arrangement of subjects will be in part by the density of traffic, with the most heavily

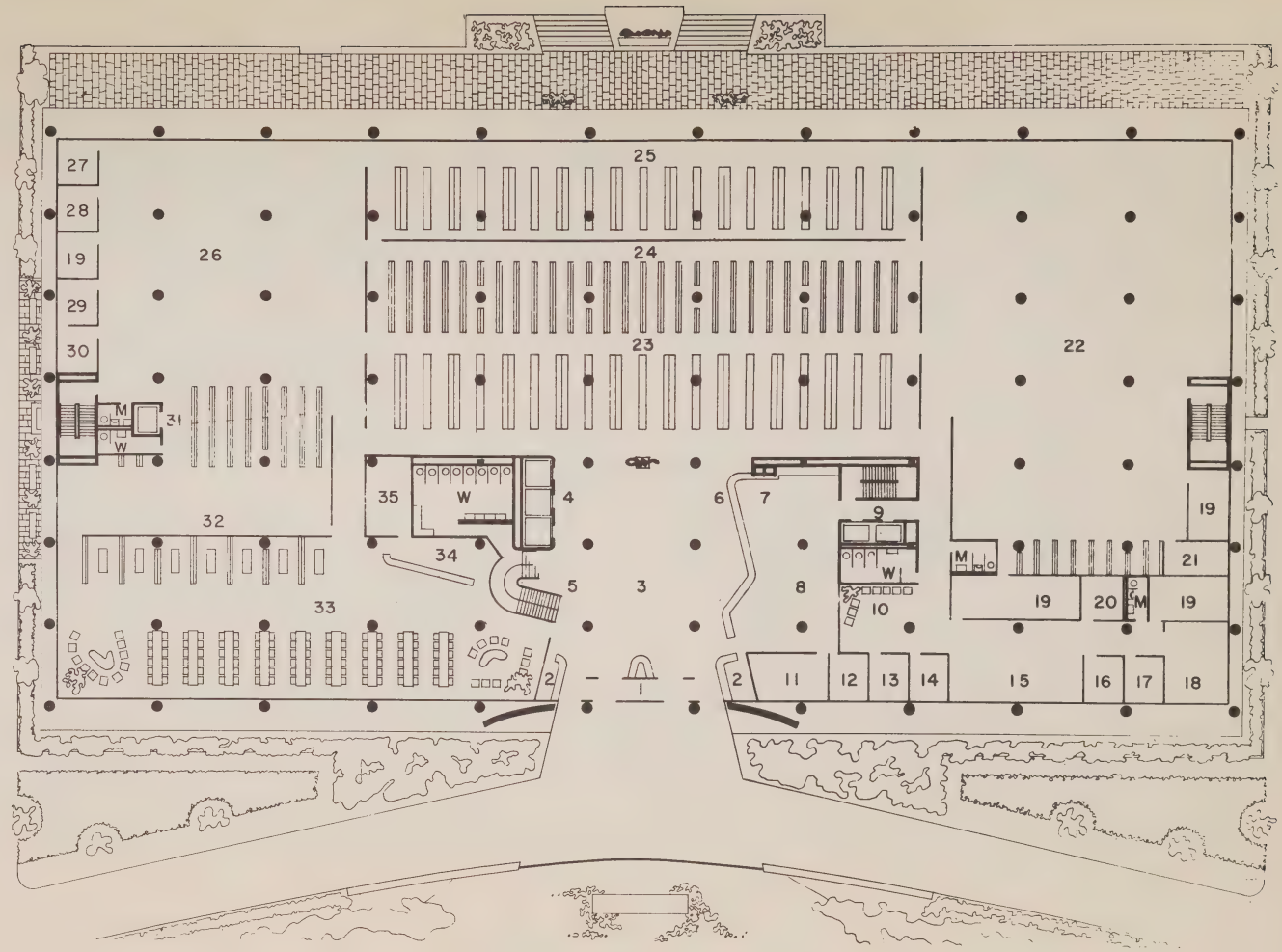


FIGURE 6

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY PLANS

MAIN FLOOR

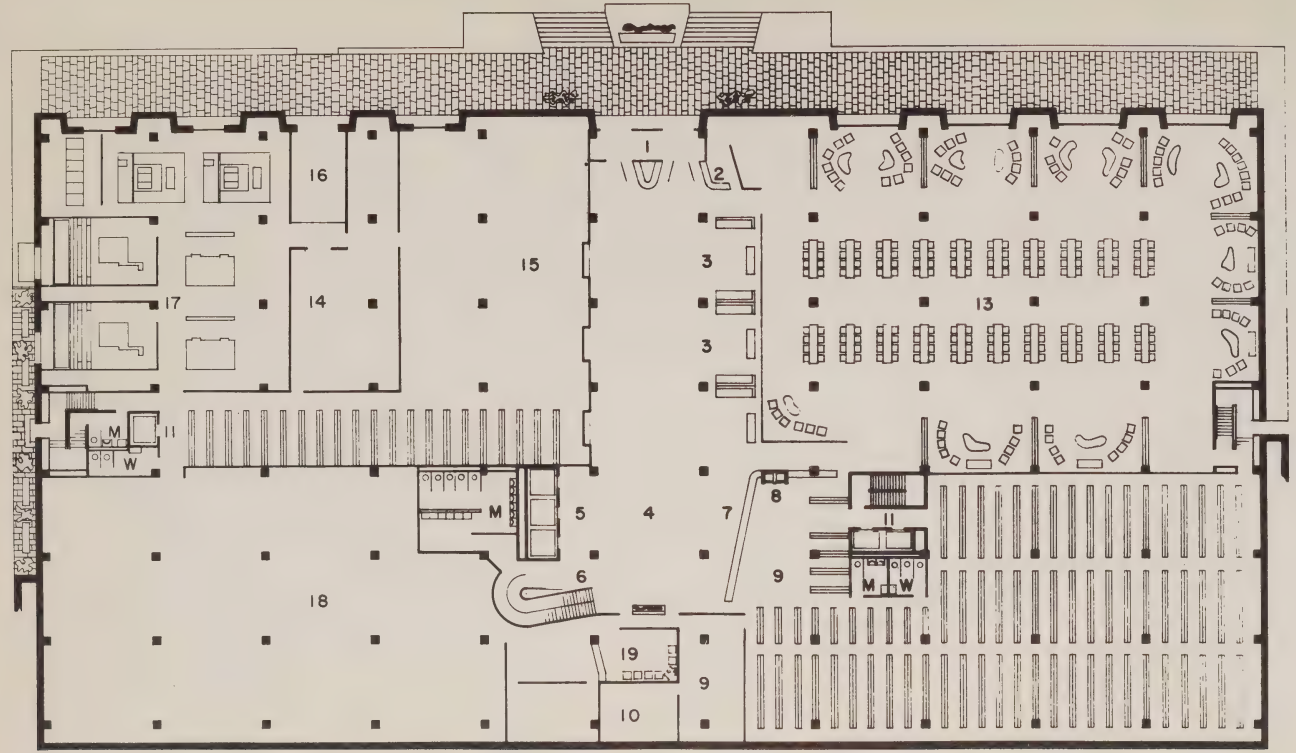


FIGURE 7

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY PLANS

BASEMENT FLOOR

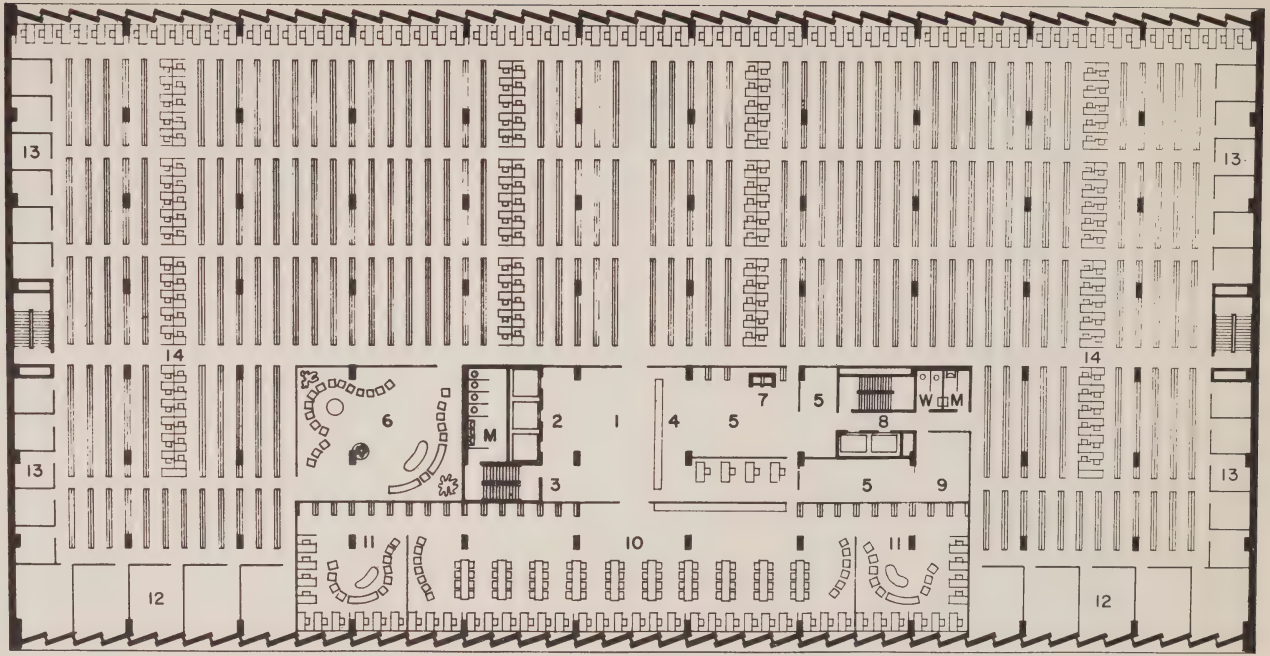


FIGURE 8

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LIBRARY PLANS

TYPICAL RESEARCH STACK FLOOR

used material on the lower floors and the rare books and special collections on the upper floors. Each of the floors shown would hold up to 250,000 - 350,000 books depending on the space allocated to readers. It was originally planned to allow free access to the stacks, but the present rate of loss of books and the number of users of the Library who are not connected with the University seem to render that plan impractical, so it has been decided, in general, to limit access to the stack areas of the building to the students and faculty specializing in those subjects. Each subject area will have a reading room to house the most heavily used reference and bibliographical material in that subject area and the current unbound periodicals. The rest of the material will be shelved in the stacks assigned to that subject.

While the plans are still very tentative, it is expected that the stack cubicles will be acoustically treated so that it will be possible to use typewriters without disturbing other people. These demountable cubicles will line up on the same centers as the bookstacks, thus increasing the flexibility of the floors, and are only about 4' 6" high. It is planned to use the face of the bookstacks adjacent to the cubicles to provide from two to five locked compartments per cubicle. Most of the carrells themselves will be unassigned.

There are also plans for a good many faculty studies, and a glassed in area for smoking and conversation on each stack floor.

Mr. Boyd remarked that he thought the Chicago plans very exciting and an excellent solution, particularly in the plans for carrells.

MR. LOUIS KAPLAN: Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Kirchhoff presented slides showing plans for the proposed library at the University of Wisconsin. The completed building will be a rectangle about 230' across the front and about 250' long. The first stage is to be an L-shaped structure, leaving a rectangular portion 115' x 155' to be completed at a later date. The part to be constructed later will double the stack capacity, add 4 reading rooms 42' x 178' with equivalent basement area, and provide 46 more faculty and graduate studies. The first unit, the cubic content of which will be about 3,156,000 feet, will consist of a basement and four floors with a set-back fifth story. Above all this there is to be a penthouse, 36' x 112' in area, which will house all the ventilating equipment, elevator machinery, dispatch tube system blowers, book conveyor motors, etc., leaving the basement free for whatever use may be required. The librarian and architect have observed that many basements of public buildings are cluttered up with machinery of

various sorts, rendering that part of the building useless for reading room space, storage of books and journals, etc., so they have decided to do something different and to leave the entire area open for whatever use is desired.

The stack is the central core type, 55' x 145' in area, 11 tiers high, with a capacity of 1,300,000 volumes. (Since the Michigan meeting, the authorities at Wisconsin have studied the stack problem in detail. They are asking for shelves no more than 5/8" thick, shelf adjustments at 1/2" intervals, and a clear space of 87 1/2" from top of floor to top of stack at ceiling. They feel that Van Hoesen's articles on book sizes (Library Quarterly, 1934 and 1935) are worthy of more attention than has apparently been given them.) There will be about 350 carrells. They will be in the usual position along aisles in the several stack-tiers. About 40 per cent of them will have windows. The regular folio shelves which hold over-size books are used to mark off the carrells from the stacks, and the lower 3 shelves will have doors and will be the lockers which will be assigned instead of carrells.

Every effort has been made to plan for flexibility throughout the building, with various areas marked off by movable bookcases or wire grills instead of by rigid partitions. In this way rooms can be made larger or smaller at will and stack areas can be closed off or made available to readers with very little expense and on very short notice. This flexibility has been achieved without employment of the "modular" scheme of construction.

Wisconsin has decided against divisional reading rooms for its new structure, chiefly because of the very large graduate element in its student population. It was felt that by wrenching thousands of books from their natural places in the stacks and placing them in divisional reading rooms the work of the graduate students and faculty would be seriously disrupted. Further, since Wisconsin has for some years permitted not only graduate students in the stacks but seniors as well, it has been decided to try the experiment of admitting juniors to the stacks in the new building, thus further decreasing the need for divisional reading rooms. If this causes too great a traffic problem in the stacks other solutions will be tried. The flexibility is such that a switch to the divisional scheme can easily be accomplished.

The present plans provide seats for approximately 2700 readers. The newspaper reading room in the basement will seat 32. There will be two reserve reading rooms and an undergraduate reference reading room on the first floor, seating a total of over 700. The second floor will contain a periodical reading room seating 170 and a large reading room seating over 400 which is planned as an area for students to use in studying their own books.

There are to be no library books in this study hall at present, but the walls are to be recessed so that bookshelves can be added later if needed. This room is to have an independent entrance. The advanced reference collections (social studies, humanities) on the second and third floors are actually inside the stacks, the theory being that the greater use of the advanced reference collections will be by people inside the stacks and that they should have access to the reference books without going outside. There will be tables and chairs in the rooms and a guard at the exit. The fourth floor will contain the documents reference room, a seminar reading room, several seminar meeting rooms, and a rare book room. Books will not be shelved permanently in the seminar reading rooms, but will be placed there temporarily for the period in which the seminar is being held, say for a semester. The seminar meeting rooms will have metal soundproof partitions and can be adjusted to different sizes. The area for rare books is to be air-conditioned. Wisconsin is not going to combine exhibition space with reading space in this area, having taken to heart the admonition issued at Yale that the two functions should not be combined.

(Dinner recess)

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH called the meeting to order and turned it over to Mr. Cameron, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Nelson, who showed plans for the proposed new library on the campus of the New Jersey College for Women.

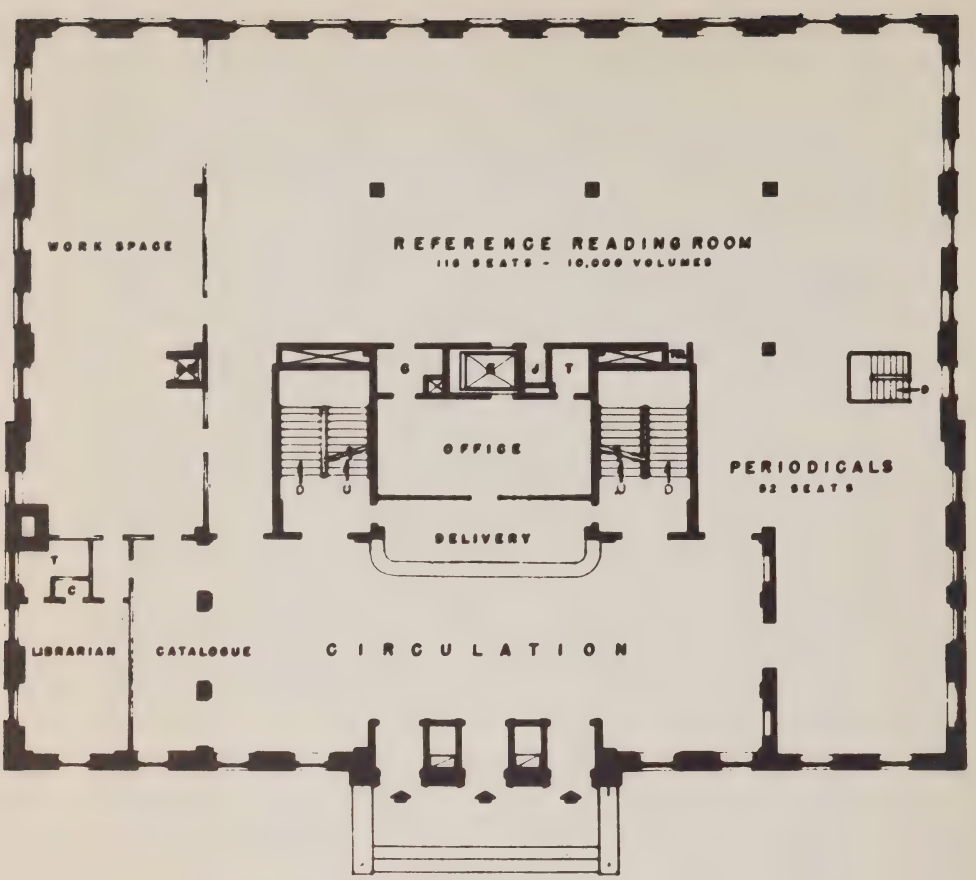
MR. DONALD F. CAMERON: Mr. Cameron stated that the student enrollment is at present 1330, of which 80 per cent are residents. It is a fixed policy to keep down the enrollment, so that any increase will be very slow and gradual. The student enrollment in the Library School is 22, and that is not likely to increase much.

The present library of the New Jersey College for Women is located in a classroom building which is completely inadequate, both in space for books and in seating capacity for readers. The collection is about 110,000 volumes, with an annual increase of 5,000 volumes. The new library and classroom building, about 130' across the front and 100' from front to back, is to be centrally located in relation to the campus. It contains about 640,000 cubic feet and has a capacity of 200,000 volumes and a seating capacity of 600. It will double present storage and seating capacity, and is expected to be adequate for the library needs of the College for an indefinite future. No plans have been made for expansion beyond that, but there is plenty of room for it if needed.

In planning the new building every effort has been made to provide for simplification and flexibility. As a result there are to be four floors which are as nearly shed like as possible. (The walls represented as gray on the plans are removable; the others are bearing walls and must stay.)

The main floor has a somewhat imposing entrance with two stairways leading to the upper floors. There is a circulation area (60' x 30'), a periodical room, reference room, librarian's office, and public catalog. The space allowed for cataloging is greatly in excess of the probable need. Space in the subbasement has been allowed for heating equipment, since the campus has no central heating plant, and the third floor will be devoted to the offices and classrooms of the Library School. Both of these areas will be unavailable for strictly library needs.

There is a natural slope to the ground which will allow for some windows in the back part of the basement floors. As planned at present the basement and subbasement will house a receiving room, staff lounge, typewriting room, microfilm reading room, 23 carrells, and stacks capable of accommodating 95,000



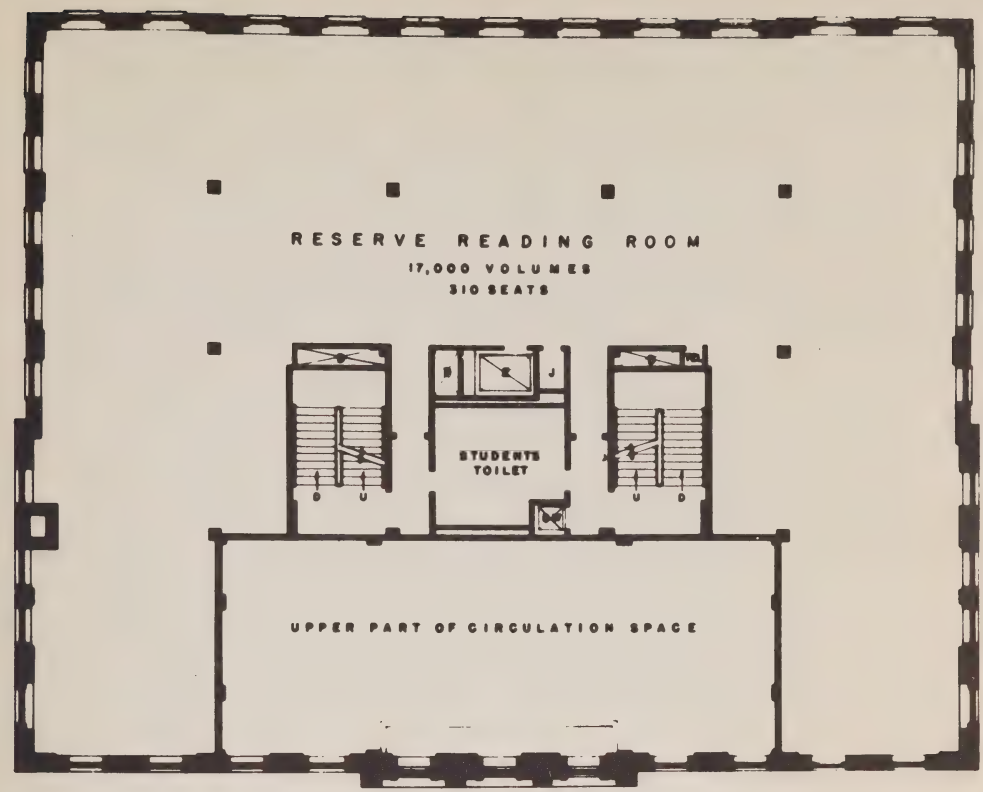
ENTRANCE FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 9

NEW JERSEY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

MAIN FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIGURE 10

NEW JERSEY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

SECOND FLOOR

volumes. A section of stacks immediately below the periodical room and connected with it by a separate stairway will provide space for periodical storage.

The second floor will provide space for reserve reading. The current practice is to have about 19,000 books a year on reserve, 11,000 at one time. The room which houses the reserve collection will provide space for 310 readers.

The criticisms of this plan were directed mainly toward the waste of space on the main floor caused by the central formal entrance, the two stairways, and the huge delivery desk. Suggestions were made to decrease the size of the delivery desk, omit one of the stairways (perhaps adding a stairway at the back if fire regulations require two stairways) or combine the two stairways, scissors fashion, and attempt to get both the circulation and the reference service into close proximity to the public catalog. It was also suggested that the location of the typewriting room in the subbasement was very unfortunate and that if there is any space available on first floor it would be well to put it there. (Mr. David called attention to a typewriter room at the University of California at Los Angeles. It has eight typewriters in it, all of which lock until a dime is dropped into a slot. They are entirely self-service, are kept in condition by the typewriter company, and they pay for themselves. He feels that this is a wonderful facility to have in a university library.) It was also pointed out that the location of the Library School on the third floor of the Library building will tie up storage space for 10,000 volumes.

The remainder of the evening was taken up with discussion and criticism of the plans of McGill, Chicago, and Wisconsin submitted during the afternoon session.

Queries were raised about McGill's decision to plan its new library in relation to the old building, subordinating all other considerations to the ceremonial hall, which has really nothing to do with the Library. It was suggested that if the hall must be kept for ceremonial purposes the stacks in the present building can be retained as dead storage for materials seldom used, and that a much more satisfactory library can be planned by starting out de novo on a free site. If that cannot be done it would at least be preferable to have the new library separate from the old one, and not jammed up against it, unless the protuberances on the old building can be removed, since they would probably be costly to build into and perhaps not costly to take away. If the two buildings were separated above ground they could still be connected by

underground stacks or by an overhead pass. The Committee urged Mr. Pennington to try to get a reconsideration of the decision to attach the new building to the old one, perhaps using the argument that the old building is a firetrap and might endanger the new structure.

Other suggestions were that it might be possible to combine the two reading rooms for undergraduates, increasing the width of the building and bringing the reading rooms down to the third floor instead of the fourth, or even to the second floor by omitting the mezzanine, or perhaps making the ceilings higher than the 15' planned and having a mezzanine in the center and a reading room on each side.

In discussing the Chicago plans the question was raised as to whether there had been any criticism from influential quarters about the sheer size of the building (300' x 154'); that it is going to dwarf the other buildings on the campus. Mr. Fussler replied that the plans had not been seen by very many people yet, that he was a bit unhappy about it himself, as it really is a huge building. However, the one building it must not dwarf is the Chapel. The Chapel has a tower, and is not immediately adjacent so there appears to be little conflict. Also, it will be less conspicuous in the proposed location than it would be in some other places. Thus far there is no real resentment as to the mass of the building itself; there is a little shock that it is as big as it is. Mr. David remarked that a library has to be big, and the only thing to do is to accept it.

A tentative decision has been made to continue both the public catalog and the official catalog for the present. As the public catalog begins to expand the official catalog will probably be sacrificed. The catalogs are very heavily used at present. Cards from the Midwest Inter-Library Center will probably be filed in the public catalog. Mr. David suggested that the official catalog might be terminated as soon as the new building was occupied.

Mr. Fussler asked for comments as to possible congestion, noise, and confusion in the lobby of a typical stack floor. There will be three elevators that could be emptying into it, plus a stairway; there will be catalogs for that particular subject area; also circulation space. Readers will get access to the stack at this point. Except in the reserve book room, a gradual traffic flow appears normal. There is a rather steady rise and fall of population during the day in the present Library, the rooms reaching an occupancy peak about eleven in the morning and between three and three-thirty in the afternoon. There was some opinion that for a population of 300 to go and come the lobby space was inadequate and that twice that amount would be better. Mr. Fussler said that it will be possible to arrange additional space there.

There can be provision for microfilm reading on every reading room floor.

The reaction of the group to the suggested carrell arrangement was enthusiastic. There was some discussion as to the probable success of multiple assignments of carrells or reading space in the stacks and it was generally agreed that multiple assignment of carrells can be handled successfully if there are individual lockers for things which require protection, such as typewriters, thesis notes, and other important data. Carrells with three shelves, one to be assigned to each occupant for the majority of the books which he is using, with individual lockers in the vicinity of the carrells for books and papers which need special protection, seem to offer a satisfactory means of combining convenience and security, since a student would not be required to pack up all his books each time he leaves a carrell but could still have protection for special items.

It was suggested that the building will be expensive to operate because of the multiple catalogs and the multiple control desks. Mr. Fussler explained that if there are 400 people working on each floor they should not all have to go to the main floor to use the catalog there, and if they did there would be great congestion in that area. He also mentioned that most, if not all, of the 27 points of service on the campus are to be eliminated, so that some money will be saved in that way. Finally this is a research library, and service from a general reference room and a circulation desk is not sufficient for a specialist.

In answer to the question as to why he didn't eliminate the reading rooms entirely and provide only carrells, Mr. Fussler mentioned that a great many non-university people, including some high school students, use the Library and will be admitted to the reading rooms but will not be allowed access to the stacks. He agreed that perhaps the reading rooms could be much smaller than the one shown.

Mr. David asked whether the so-called oases at Princeton were successful. Mr. Boyd replied that they are used all the time and he thinks they are a very good idea.

Mr. Kaplan explained that the peculairly shaped building which Wisconsin is to have is due to the fact that there are some buildings in the vicinity which the University does not own, so it was necessary to adapt the shape of the building accordingly. In time, the completed building will be rectangular in shape.

The meeting adjourned.

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH introduced Mr. Harlan Brown, Librarian of North Carolina State College, Raleigh, North Carolina.

MR. HARLAN BROWN: Mr. Brown presented slides showing the proposed lay-out of the new library for the North Carolina State College of Agriculture. This College is in effect the technical college for the Greater University of North Carolina, being devoted specifically to agriculture and engineering. While the College offers some liberal arts courses, it does not offer a degree program in arts, and the Library consequently can concentrate its collecting and service in the technical field. The present enrollment is about 4,500 and is not expected to exceed that figure.

The State of North Carolina has appropriated $1,250,000 for a new library building and $250,000 for equipping it. The building which has been designed is a three-story structure covering an area 249' x 127'. The module is 18' x 22 1/2'. The library will seat approximately 900 people and will provide storage for about 350,000 volumes. The main entrance is on the south side, with an additional entrance on the east. The loan desk is in close proximity to the main entrance and there are two book lifts in the middle of the loan desk. The library will also have two elevators for passengers and book trucks.

There is to be an assembly room or lecture hall seating 200 in the basement which can be used for library lectures to freshmen or for lectures sponsored by other departments on the campus, especially the Department of English.

The library does not have to provide storage for newspapers, since the North Carolina State Library is only a short distance away and has good files of the state papers and the major papers from all over the country. Consequently newspaper files can be discarded after a year.

The library has subscriptions for 1400 periodicals and the current number of each is to be kept in the periodical reading room on the main floor. The unbound issues will be kept in a room immediately below the periodical room, and the bound volumes will be stored in the stacks.

The library does a great deal of work with documents. It is a complete depository for United States documents and it has very extensive files of publications of state agricultural colleges and state experiment stations. The collection is well organized. In order to secure a close relationship between the documents and

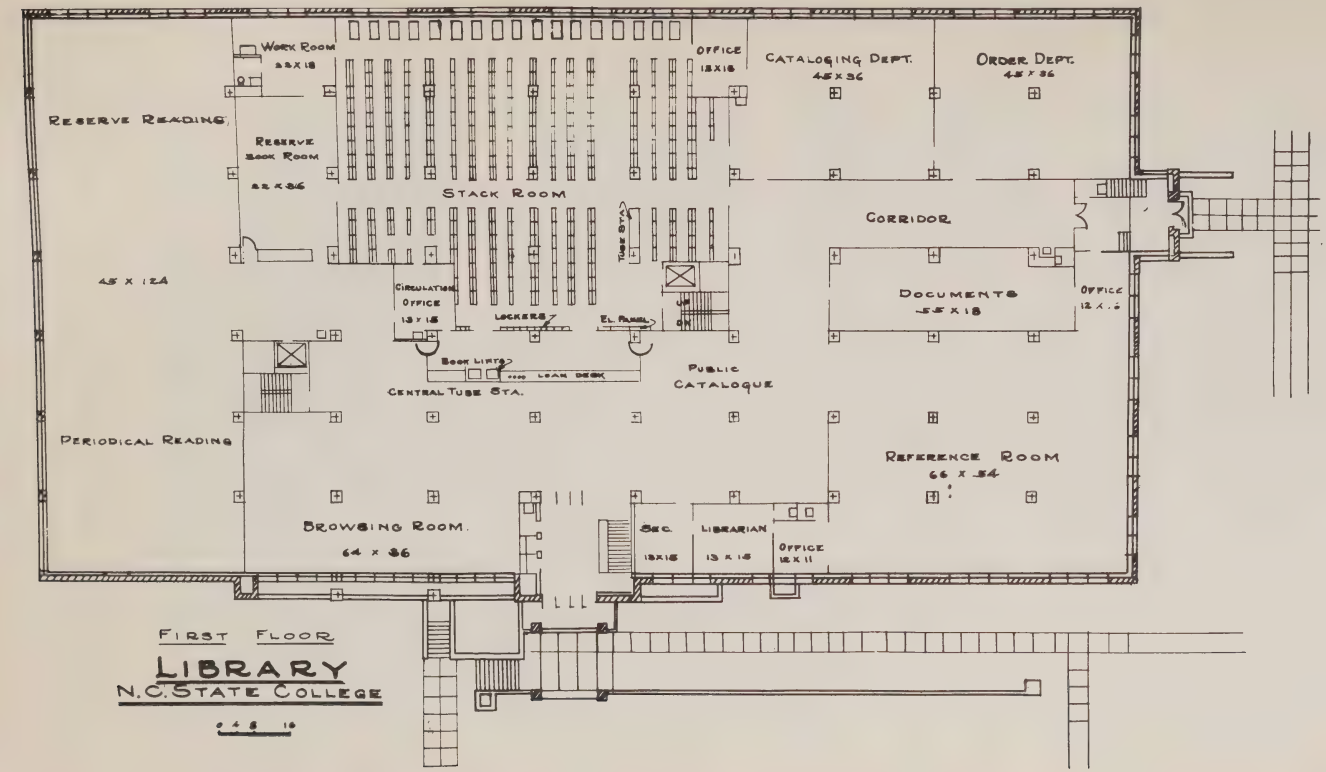


FIGURE 11

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE

LIBRARY PLANS

FIRST FLOOR

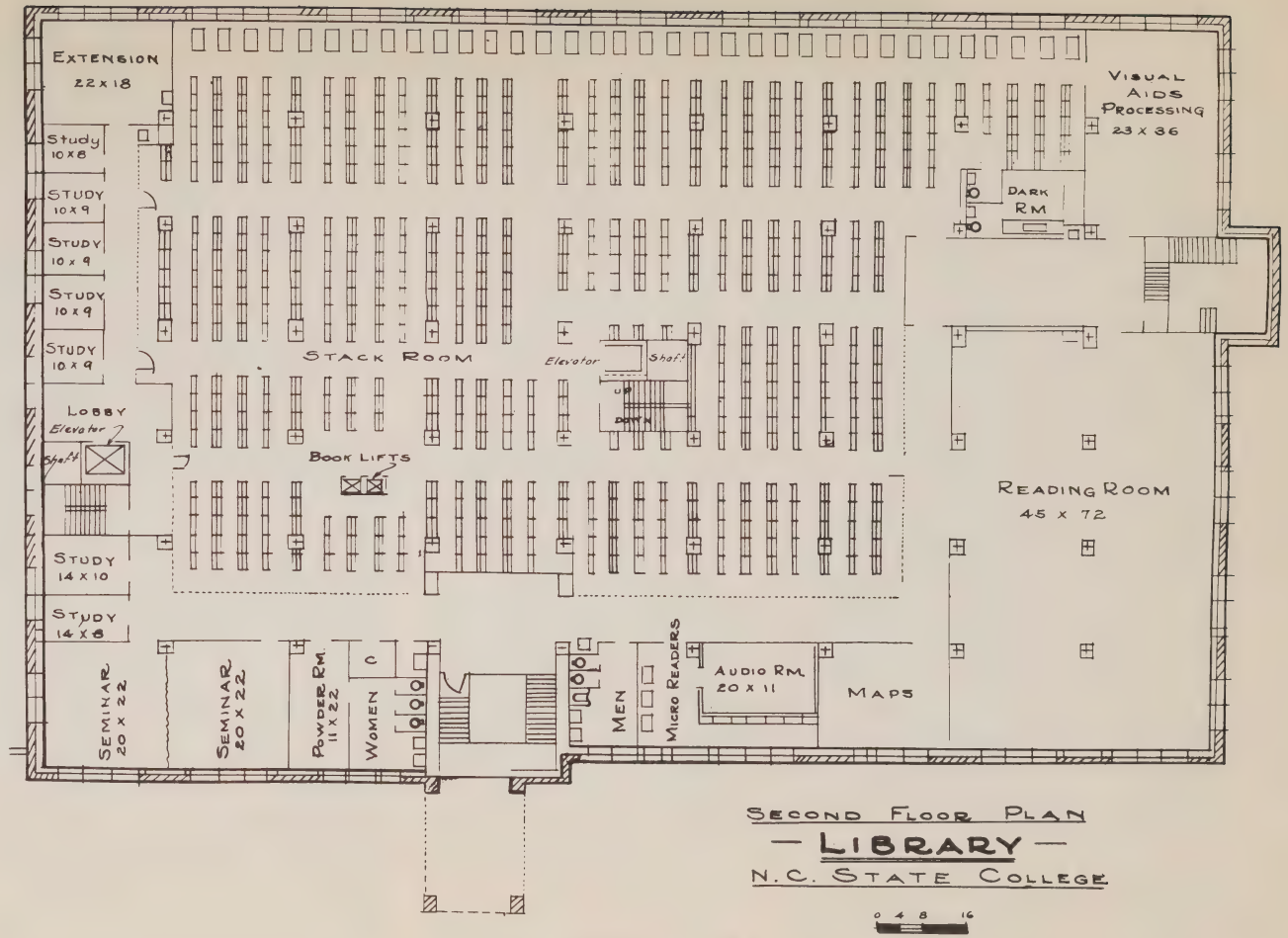


FIGURE 12

NORTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE

LIBRARY PLANS

SECOND FLOOR

reference service and to make the reference tools conveniently available to the documents librarian, the documents librarian will be placed in the reference room. Later, if the space factor makes it necessary, the documents librarian may be moved to the floor above.

The library will have about 100 carrells, of the open variety. There are to be seven conference rooms or studies which can be used for small meetings or can be assigned to professors who are doing prolonged research in the library. There will be a map room with specially built shelves and a big table so that maps can be consulted conveniently. There will be provision for photostat and microfilm work, with the expectation that a full-time person can handle all the work for the library and for the Registrar's Office. A room for microfilm-reading machines and a sound-proof room for listening to educational records will also be provided. Lockers will be provided for student assistants in the Circulation Department.

The building is planned in such a way that air conditioning can be added later if permission is given. At present the State of North Carolina does not authorize air conditioning for reader comfort but will permit it for the preservation of rare books. The architect has assured Mr. Brown that the use of optical control glass and a deep overhang will eliminate most of the heat and glare from the western windows, but Mr. Brown is not convinced that it will. He is also opposed to the use of terrazzo throughout the building, despite its long-wearing qualities, because of the noise and fatigue it produces. He would prefer asphalt tile in those parts of the building where there is the greatest amount of traffic and where noise can be disturbing to readers.

The Committee found many things to criticize in the plans in their present form, pointing out that the building is unnecessarily cut up, that the functional relations are not sufficiently established, work areas are not well planned (e. g., the books will come in at one corner and the catalogers are over in another); that there is not sufficient vertical integration (e. g., photostat room, staff room, toilet facilities, etc., are scattered around the building without regard to source of water supply); that it would be better to have the reading room in the northeast corner instead of on the west side; that the lecture room in the basement would occupy a good deal of space which could be used to better advantage in other ways and that a classroom elsewhere on the campus could be used for the library lectures to freshmen; and that if supporting columns are removed in any area the remaining columns must bear a heavier load and must therefore have thicker beams, resulting in lower ceilings. The following statement was made a part of the record: "The Committee views with some alarm

this plan and feels that the librarian and the architects have not hammered it hard enough to get clarity, and urge that much more study be made of it before it is put on a permanent basis. Much saving could be made with more careful study. We support Mr. Brown in his resistance to the expanse of glass on the western exposure and to the use of so much terrazzo flooring."

MR. ROBERT MULLER, Librarian, Southern Illinois University: Mr. Muller explained that the institution he represents was formerly one of the five teachers colleges of Illinois, but that last summer it acquired university status and was put under a separate board, the intention being to develop it as a university for the southern part of the state to relieve pressure on Urbana. The present enrollment is 3,000 students, approximately 200 of whom are graduate students. The Master's degree is conferred. Careful studies of the probable growth curve seem to indicate that in ten years the enrollment will be about 6,000 or 7,000 and about 8,000 or 10,0000 by 1970.

The proposed library occupies a rather commanding position on the campus plan. It will have two entrances (one from the north and one from the south) because the traffic is expected to be about equal from both sides. It will be rectangular, rather than square, because of a wooded area nearby which is to be encroached upon as little as possible. The cubage planned is 1,500,000 cubic feet, yielding a floor area of 115,000 square feet. The first stage will consist of 206 modules, each 23' 2" square; the final stage, 353 modules. The first stage is 57.5 per cent of the total. The Legislature appropriated $2,131,850, of which the building itself, not counting furnishings, tunnel connections, and landscaping is to cost $1,707,000. Expansion will be vertical.

The philosophy of this building is almost the opposite of that governing the library proposed for McGill. The faculty at Southern Illinois is trying to do as much of an informal teaching job in the library as possible, and is making every effort toward bringing books and readers together. The library is to be of the open stack type, and the only controls will be at the central desk. There will be a large charging desk on the main floor between the two entrances, and people will have to pass between that desk and a railing to get out. During rush hours the desk will be manned at two points; during hours when the traffic isn't very heavy one person can probably take care of the desk. Books will not be checked out from the reading room; thus the professional librarians in the reading rooms will not have to spend any time performing clerical tasks. At one end of the main floor will be a study hall for the students to use who bring their own textbooks. There will be no library books in this study

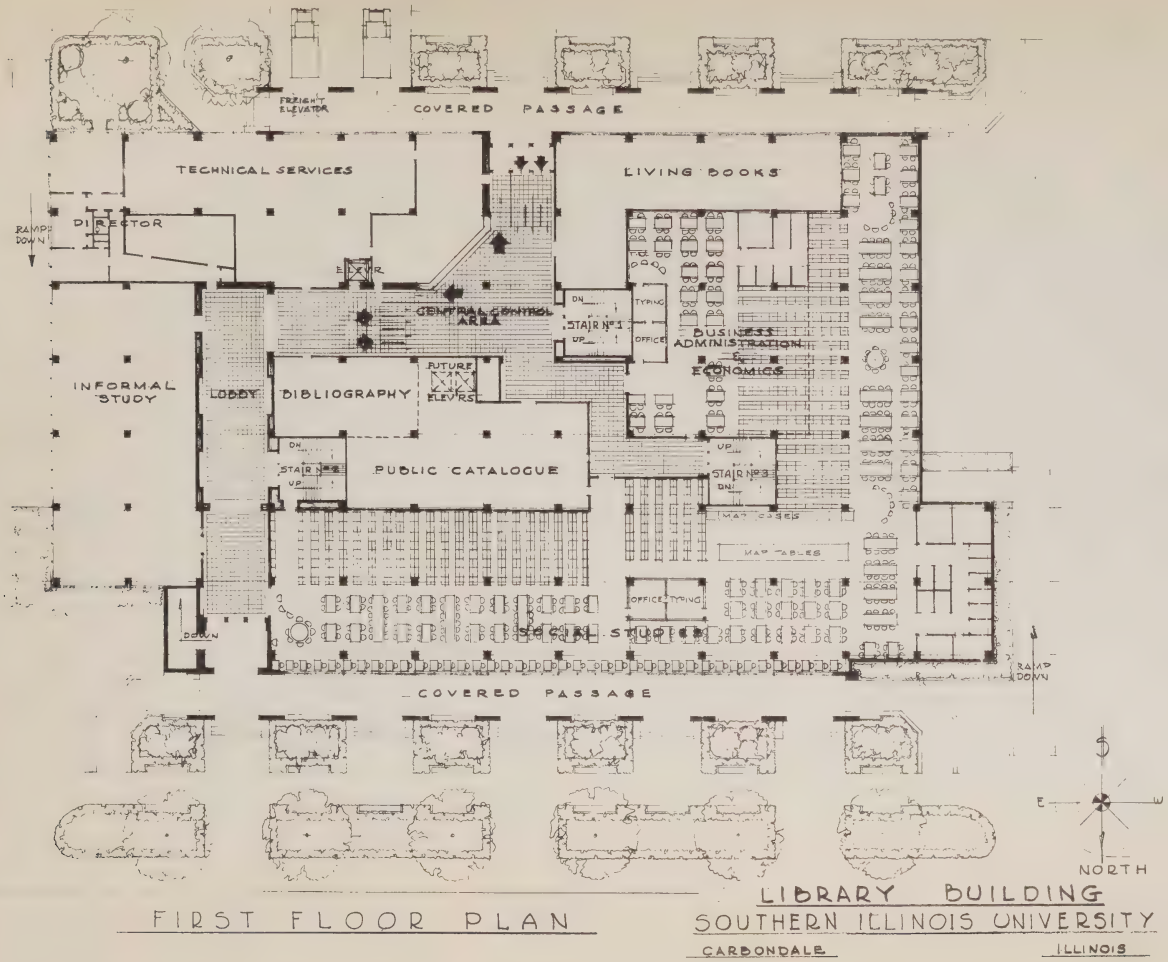


FIGURE 13

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

FIRST FLOOR

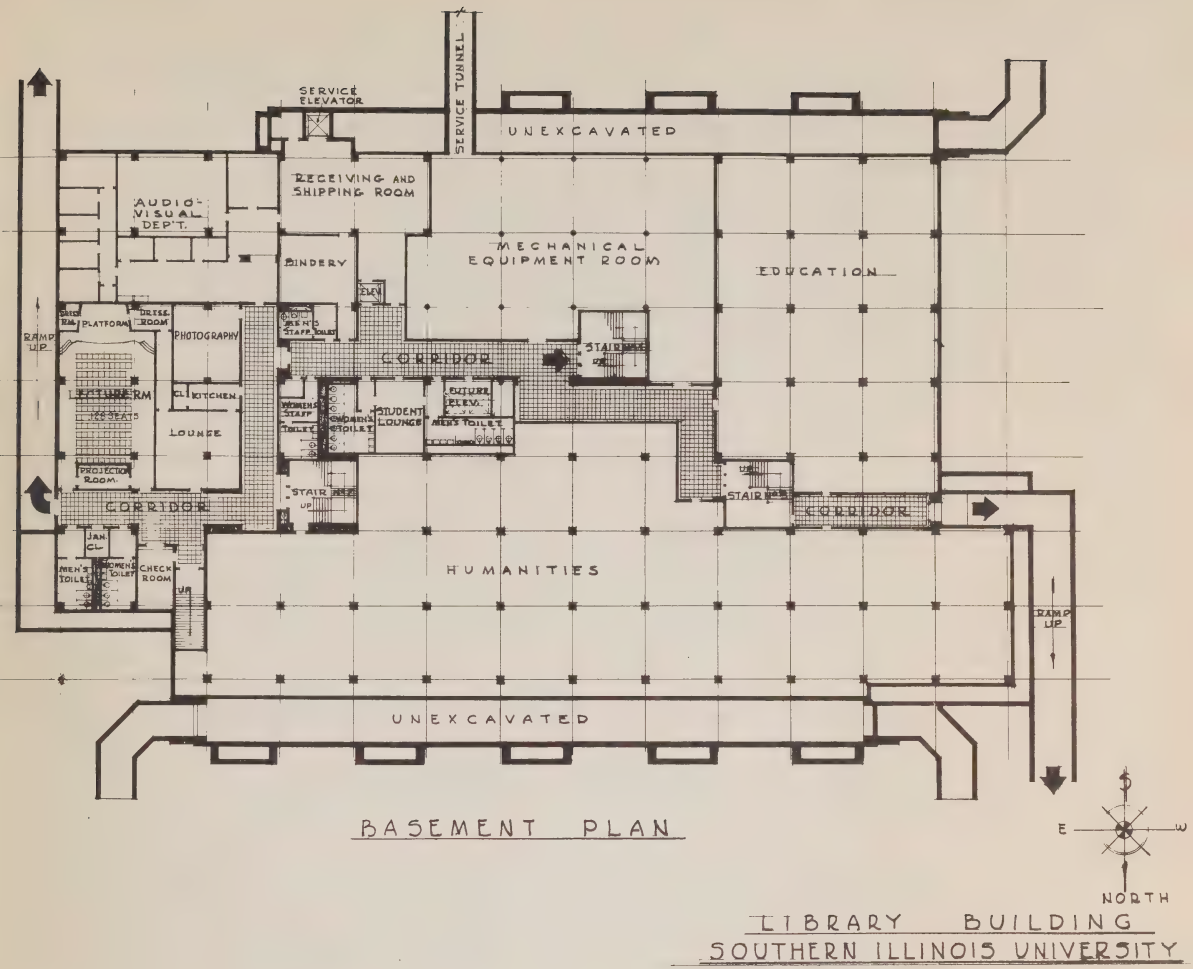


FIGURE 14

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY PLANS

BASEMENT FLOOR

room. Smoking will probably be permitted in this room.

At the other end of the main floor is a room tentatively called the "Books for Living" collection, which will be a small collection of about 500 titles, with 4 or 5 copies of each title. They will be the sort of books which an educated person should not have missed during his lifetime.

The main arrangement of the reading and stack areas is a flexible subject arrangement, which is thought of as a sort of natural grouping in contrast to one by preconceived divisions. The books will be arranged by putting in proximity the things that belong together, rather than by keeping them strictly in the Dewey classification as they are now arranged. Business and economics will be combined. There will be an adjoining area for the other social sciences. Here, history, political science, and geography will be together. The library expects to establish new sections whenever the faculty finds a need for books on a certain subject. It is hoped in this way to avoid the cropping up of little individual collections elsewhere on the campus.

Any one subject area will contain books as well as current and bound periodicals, documents, pamphlets, reference tools, microfilms, microcards, picture files, indexes, catalogs, etc. There will be no separate rooms for periodicals, documents, reference, covering all subjects.

The public catalog is in a central location where it will be accessible to all the reading areas, with a bibliography area attached to it. There will be a sound proof typing room, so that students can copy information from the catalog. The technical services and the offices for director and assistant directors are located across the corridor from the card catalog.

The basement will house the reading rooms for humanities and science. The humanities area will have listening booths and a section for scores. Books and magazines on art will be in this section. The basement will also house the mechanical equipment. There will be a small bindery for the binding that does not have to be sent out. An audio-visual service is planned as a separate area at present because it is not under the administrative control of the library.

The second floor will contain the Education and Psychology area, and the Tilton Lincoln Library, which must be left intact. The staff lounge will also be there. There will be windows in both the Tilton Library and in the staff lounge. The third floor is similar to the second. It will probably be used for storage of books that will not be needed in subject areas. Mr. Muller gave as his reasons for having so few windows the fact that direct sun-

light is harmful to books and provides glare; hence there is no point in having windows. There will be windows on the north side, but none at all on the west. The southern side will probably have a covered passage to shelter the windows from the sun.

The comments on this plan indicated a lack of vertical integration, "a sort of labyrinthian plan with a completely different orientation on each floor." Several members of the group expressed doubt that the library could get along satisfactorily with so few windows. It was also pointed out that unless the librarians in the various reading rooms have reference materials close at hand, they will have to do a great deal of walking in answering inquiries, particularly if telephone inquiries are to be answered. Another point mentioned was the disturbance which would be caused in the reading rooms by traffic whenever readers go to the stacks to get books, and it was suggested that an aisle down the stacks would eliminate this difficulty.

MISS ELIZABETH MILLER, Librarian, Goucher College: Miss Miller reported briefly on the situation at Goucher College stressing the need for an immediate decision as to whether to abandon a set of library plans which had been prepared and paid for under a previous administration. Construction expenditures are far beyond the means of the college at the present time, and it might be necessary to postpone construction for several years. On the other hand, a less expensive building could be begun in the winter of 1950.

Goucher College is a small liberal arts college for women in downtown Baltimore. Its present enrollment is 750 with an anticipated maximum of 1,000 students. Its location in the center of the city is very unsatisfactory. Many years ago land was purchased in the country at Towson, Maryland. In a national competition for a new campus plan, architects were selected by the college. The war halted the building program while the college operated on a divided campus.

In 1948 a new President came to the college and has revised the schedule of building so that some factors which controlled the design for the Library have changed. The plans were completed late in 1948, and the building was originally scheduled for construction in 1949. However, in an effort to get all students in residence on one campus, the construction of another dormitory was pushed ahead of the library. By the fall of 1950 all students will be in residence on the country campus, and all classes will be held out there leaving only the library and the science laboratories on the old campus eight miles away.

The instructional program at Goucher emphasizes independent reading, the use of primary source materials, and the provision of only a small reserve book collection. The problem of keeping up to the usual level of instruction with only a small branch library on the country campus is a serious one. Students and faculty are loud in their complaints.

Because of the fact that the old city buildings of the college can be readily sold on the present high market, it is even more important to move to the country campus as soon as possible.

The latest estimate of the cost of erecting the library is $1,250,000. This amount of money will not be available for several years because of the urgent need for construction of other buildings. However, $800,000 could probably be set aside for library construction by the winter of 1950-51. It would seem advisable to scrap the present plans despite the loss of money to the college in payment for the original plans. Furthermore, revision of the plans might make it possible to improve on some objectionable features of the plan.

Whatever decision is made with regard to building a new library, there are important considerations with respect to housing library facilities on the country campus during the interim period. Temporary quarters could be provided by construction of a wing of one of the dormitories. There is also the alternative of erecting a small temporary building which would house a part of the library. It might be wiser instead of spending a good deal of time planning a temporary structure which would later have to be torn down to make an all-out effort to push the new plans through to completion as rapidly as possible in the hope of getting occupancy within a year.

The opinion of the Committee was emphatically against rushing the new plan to completion and hastening the erection of a new building. It was pointed out that a good library cannot be planned in a short space of time and that it would be much better to house the library in temporary quarters while plans for a new building are maturing. One important consideration in setting up a temporary structure is to erect it on a site where it has to be taken down later. Mr. Booton gave an example from his recent experience where a library was set up in a quonset hut in the center of a mall that is going to have a site development so there is no danger that it will become the permanent quarters of the library. The hut was simple and inexpensive to erect and equip, and it is giving satisfactory service to a student body of 2,500.

The Committee was heartily in favor of abandoning plans for a library destined to become a campus corridor with nine entrances and exits. The following statement was made for the

record: "This group has had much experience in scrapping plans and is not alarmed at the prospect, if that seems the wise thing to do in the case of Goucher."

Mr. Rovelstad reported that the $2,000,000 appropriation which had been anticipated for a new building for Maryland had not materialized. There are some prospects that it may be forthcoming at the next meeting of the Legislature, which takes place in January. In the meantime he and his architects are working on plans for the building. The plans are not sufficiently advanced for presentation at this meeting, but he hopes to present them next time.

The question of library furniture was discussed, and Mr. Ellsworth asked about the state of competition at the present time and whether the architects thought it would be more advantageous to buy furniture now or later. Mr. Booton said that only two bids had been received in response to advertisements for bids on the technical furniture for the library at Charleston about three weeks previously. Remington-Rand were the low bidders and have received the contract. The other bidder was a combination of Globe-Wernicke and Snead formed for this particular bidding. The question was raised as to why there were only two bidders and the opinion seemed to be that library furniture is quite specialized and it is almost necessary for a firm to specialize in it or refrain from manufacturing it at all.

The question of wood vs. metal furniture was discussed and the general agreement was that although the initial cost of metal furniture is greater than that of wood it is more durable and therefore a better buy for the money. The comment on Remington-Rand's products was that its furniture is good but that some of its filing cases are not too good.

The group was cautioned against letting contracts to small mills which agree to do the work for a very moderate price but when they discover the exacting specifications required by libraries may be unable to fulfill their contracts, or the material supplied may be unsatisfactory and they may be financially unable to replace defective or broken furniture. Mr. Muller mentioned that in his visit to MIT he had noticed a lot of experimental work and investigation of the durability of various kinds of furniture. [This information will be published at a later date by the Library of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.]

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH announced that the remainder of the meeting would be devoted to a discussion of Harvard's Lamont Library.

MR. KEYES METCALF: Mr. Metcalf reported that, on the whole, the library seems to be working out very well. The building is large enough, and not too large. The stalls have been more popular than any of the other seating accommodations. If they were building again they would have more, rather than fewer stalls. The students like to get away from others to do their studying, thus, the stalls that are farthest away are the most popular.

The effort that was made to simplify the use of the library appears to be justified. The supervision at the doors has proved satisfactory. They have 900 boys in the Lamont Library at one time with no attendants except in the reference room and in the circulation area. The building can be operated with a smaller staff than was anticipated and smaller than most other libraries that have 900 people at a time. It pays to plan so as to be able to get along with a small staff even though it costs more to construct the building. The building was purposely overstaffed for the first few months so as to make sure they got started well. The building is open 75 hours a week. The work week is 37 hours. There is at present a staff of 22 full-time people, 7 of whom are professional, for a student body of 5,000. This, of course, is not the complete staff, as acquisition and cataloging is done in Widener. The total cost of the building was about 7 per cent less than the money appropriated and the cost of taking care of the building is running less than had been anticipated.

The basic plans for the library are good and have worked out well. There have been a number of minor difficulties. The rubber tile on the 4' x 5' stairways gets black very quickly from the rubber-soled shoes which the boys wear and looks messy. No satisfactory way of avoiding this has yet been found. It will be necessary to protect more of the columns with metal to avoid damage. About one-fourth of the furniture of the building was imported from Sweden, and that is the only furniture they have had trouble with. It cost about the same as similar American furniture but part of it began breaking up soon after it was installed. The difficulty was in the way the legs were attached to the upper part of the chairs and tables. This fault has been corrected, but it will cost about $500 before it is completed. This will be paid for by the manufacturer. There has been no difficulty with the American chairs and tables.

Mr. Metcalf especially urged watchfulness in planning the location of electrical switches. At Harvard the switches were placed in switch boxes so that they could not be turned on by students. The assumption was that the lights would be turned on all the time. They now find that this is not necessary and are spending about $1000 to have the circuits broken up and the

switches changed. This amount will be recovered in current-saving in a few years.

One of the irritating things that Harvard did was to separate the staff facilities. There is a locker room on the ground floor because there was a place to put it under the stairs and out of the way. It was expected that the staff would come in on the ground floor level. They do; but most of them work on the third level. The restroom for the women is on the first level; the men's room is on the second level; and the lunch room is on the fifth level. It might have been much better if they had concentrated these facilities.

The typing cubicles are metal-lined, with holes in the metal to absorb sound. The accoustic correction is effective and there haven't been any complaints about the noise, but Mr. Metcalf finds that the rows of small holes have a tendency to make a person dizzy. No student complaints have been received, however.

The janitors' quarters are not entirely satisfactory, but at least the librarians can say that the building and maintenance staff designed them and should have known better.

Acoustic celotex has been used on the ceiling throughout the building. On the stack ceilings where the celotex is applied to the metal plate it has been difficult to attach the tiles firmly. There seemed to be something in the paint that affected the glue and every few months one of the tiles would fall. This has now been corrected and the contractor has guaranteed that anything that falls in the next five years will be taken care of free of charge. If too many tiles fall, he will replace them all.

The ten small classrooms or conference rooms in the building for sections of large courses have worked out all right there, but it would not be wise for a library to have them if it could not arrange the communication to the classrooms in such a way as not to disturb people using the library. The only problem Harvard finds in connection with these rooms is that it is necessary to put an extra person on duty at the doors during the change of classes. By doing that it is possible to take care of some 600 people that leave the building in a few minutes. In connection with these rooms two mistakes were made: the walls do not have chair rails and have been marred (this has happened in other sections of the building); and the blackboards were not large enough, because of lack of specifications from the General Education Department.

The air conditioning has worked very well. Some trouble has been experienced with water in the subbasement because drainage tile were not put in at each expansion joint to draw off the water.

It has cost quite a considerable sum of money to take care of that difficulty, as well as making a lot of dust in the storage stack. The tunnel to Widener is very noisy, as no sound absorption was used there.

Efforts to design the standard chair at Harvard so that it would be difficult to lean back in have succeeded in that respect - the boys don't lean back in the chairs but they put their feet on the tables. The administration has decided to let them do it so long as they don't mar the tables.

The size of the various rooms seems to be about right.

Fluorescent light is used through most of the building. Some of the corridor lights are incandescent, which will stand turning on and off more frequently without burning out. The library purposely does not try to have the same intensity of light in all parts of the building because some people like different levels of intensity than others do. There are no table lights at present, and no requests for them have been received, but the wiring is there in the stalls in case they are needed at a later date. Quite a number of slimline tubes have burned out because they were in use during the latter part of the construction and they were moved around and bumped a good deal. The ceiling lights (slimline) in the large areas have worked perfectly. They have given almost no trouble. It is expected that these lights will not be changed more than once in two or three years, and then they will all be changed at once. Mr. Metcalf would have preferred cold cathode lights but could get no promise from the manufacturers that replacements could be secured when wanted. The cold cathode lights in some of the exhibit cases at Houghton have been in use for eight years and only one of them has burned out.

The egg crate fixtures have not given any trouble yet, as far as accumulating dust and dirt is concerned. The building is air conditioned, so there is not much dust and dirt to accumulate. There were some complaints about the hum level in the switch boards during the first few months, but that has been corrected. The lighting intensity on the table topes is 25 to 30 foot candles at present. It was higher to start with. The lights are designed to provide an intensity of not less than 15 foot candles at all the seats in the reading rooms. Slimline tubes have been used throughout and the wiring is such that the wattage can be doubled when needed. The intensity has come down about 25 per cent in a year as was expected.

Cork flooring has been used throughout the building except in the entrance lobbies and on the stairs. Cork was selected because it is considered the quietest, pleasantest floor that it is possible to get and because, if reasonable care is

taken with it, it will stand up under years of hard wear.

The smoking room on the first level has no windows, but the students do not seem to notice it, even when there are fifty or sixty in the room at one time.

(Luncheon recess)

POST-LUNCHEON SESSION, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3, 1949

CHAIRMAN ELLSWORTH opened the meeting by saying that the Committee must make a serious attempt to find out what it is to do from now on. The group has lost the homogeneity that characterized it at the beginning, when all the members were personal friends and their problems were very similar. The interests now show a wider range, both in the types of institutions represented and in the types of buildings being planned, and the size of the group prevents the free interchange of ideas which has been one of the chief values of the meetings. It is not possible to deal adequately with as many plans as were presented this time in the amount of time allowed so that a future meeting would have to have fewer presentations or last a longer time.

There is also the question as to whether this group, by continuing its existence, is preventing some other committee, such as the ACRL Building Committee, from doing its proper work.

Various members of the group expressed the opinion that this series of meetings had been invaluable to them and had helped them to correct errors in planning which would have been very expensive to correct at a later date.

The discussion then turned to the question of whether the meetings are worth the time and money they cost - i. e., whether the institutions represented could receive in some other way as valuable criticism of their plans as by submitting them to this group; whether the idea of arranging for a critic to study the plans ahead of time and lead the comments upon them after they are presented is a good one; and whether the discussion of a specific set of plans is of more value to the librarian presenting them after they have reached a stage when they can be submitted to a critic or at a time when they are in a somewhat fluid state and before they have solidified in a form which is difficult to change.

There is the added difficulty that plans for libraries are maturing at different times, so that it would not be advantageous to meet at fixed times to receive reports of progress.

The opinion was expressed that if the ACRL Committee were to take over it should be reorganized and greatly strengthened, since most of the members at present are from small libraries, deliberately chosen so as to avoid duplication of the work of the Cooperative Committee. The present function of the ACRL Committee seems to be mainly that of a repository of information, rather than an active advisory service. The Committee has recently decided

that it will no longer give advice on building problems by correspondence but will recommend consultants. With the help of a small fund ($50) from the ALA Mr. Muller has written to various people, asking if they would be willing to act as consultants, and he has received a few replies. He does not feel that it would be wise for him to recommend a specific consultant to a particular library, but thinks a mimeographed sheet might be prepared showing the names of those who had expressed willingness to act as consultants and giving their experience. This sheet could be distributed in response to inquiries and the institution making the inquiry could then select the consultant (or consultants) who seem best fitted for that particular library.

The point was made that there is a natural difference between what a consultant can do and what this Committee can do, embodying as it does the cumulative experience acquired in erecting a considerable number of library buildings, and being entirely free from any financial considerations which might influence its recommendations and criticisms.

The question as to how future meetings of the Committee were to be financed brought forth a suggestion that the libraries needing criticism of their plans deposit funds with the Committee to pay the expenses of an invited group of consultants, other librarians coming at their own expense. This suggestion did not meet with the approval of the group, since most of the members felt that it would be difficult to decide how much an individual library should pay and because the group feels that it does not wish to place a commercial value on its services.

The Committee decided to hold at least one more meeting, the time and place to be decided later. It was felt that as the older members of the group dropped out new ones would come in so that the Committee could be more or less self-perpetuating. The Committee voted to continue the same officers for the next year. Mr. Ellsworth will write to the various members of the group for advice in determining the time and place of the next meeting, and he will try to arrange the schedule in such a way that each library presenting plans will have adequate time for discussion and criticism.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

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The Michigan conference, a meeting of
Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library
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